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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19793 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1997 • KISLEV 6, 5758 • 5 SHAABAN 1418 NIS 7.00 (EILAT NIS 6.00)



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Captured Hamas cell reveals new kidnap methods

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Soldiers have been put on alert against attempts to kidnap them by Hamas terrorists, after members of a Hamas cell captured last week revealed a new method of luring soldiers into cars.

Only yesterday was it allowed to be published that members of a Hamas cell were captured on November 25 when their car aroused the suspicion of a Border Police patrol near the A-Ram junction as it tried to leave Jerusalem. The driver ran the roadblock, but the three were captured when the car overturned, trying to escape another Border Police patrol.

According to the IDF, the three were trying to kidnap a soldier. They had in their possession wigs, talitot, kippot, and other items to disguise themselves as Jews, the army said. They also found a pistol, knives, handcuffs, and an anesthetic.

Security sources said that Hamas has developed a new plan to kidnap soldiers using two vehicles. The first, with a lone driver, is to stop for a soldier - soldiers have long been warned against getting into vehicles with more than one person in them. The first car would drive off, then stop for some reason, and a second car containing more terrorists would pull up and grab the soldier.

The army said that the would-be kidnapers had searched for soldiers at hitchhiking posts and major intersections.

Information from the interrogation of Hamas prisoners, including the gang leaders of the Tzurif cell and the Jerusalem-based Hamas terrorists who were responsible for a bombing at Tel Aviv's central bus station about a year ago, indicated Hamas had made a policy decision to grab soldiers to be used as bargaining chips to win the release of Hamas prisoners.

But the breakthrough revealing the details of the plan came with the November 25 arrests.

Soldiers have been banned from hitchhiking, but this has not deterred the many who find it a quick way to travel. This past week, military police have carried out hundreds of mock kidnappings and fired soldiers who were lured into their cars.

Hamas leaders held a meeting in Gaza last night following the announcement it has been discovered that Hamas planned to abduct soldiers. Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, and Ismail Abu Shanab were among those attending the meeting.

After the meeting, Rantisi said he could not confirm Israel's claims. He added that Hamas sought to release all Palestinian prisoners in Israel. "Imprisoning Palestinians in Israeli prisons is to us the equivalent of murdering them," he said. "To stop the violence, the Zionist enemy must release all Palestinian prisoners."

Margot Dudaevitch and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.



A Rosh Ha'ayin resident fills a pail with water from an emergency tank yesterday, as the town's water supply was cut off. By last night, Rosh Ha'ayin's water supply and that of the rest of the country was renewed. The Tel Aviv Labor Court later ordered Mekorot's 400 striking employees to resume their posts immediately and to repair all breakdowns. Story, Page 3. (Israel Staff)

Gov't cuts off Histadrut talks

Strike set to continue for third day

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, BATSHEVA TSUR and DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury last night broke off talks aimed at ending a crippling Histadrut general strike, on the instructions of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who said there could be no negotiations with workers who were in contempt of court.

Rubinstein's orders came after the Histadrut, defying back-to-work orders issued Wednesday and an appeal from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said it would continue a strike by 700,000 workers for a third day today.

The Histadrut insisted it would continue the job action until a new agreement was signed guaranteeing conditions reached in accords signed in 1996 and 1996.

The State Attorney's Office said it would go back to the Labor Court today to get new back-to-work orders against the strikers.

Schools are to join the strike today and close at 10 a.m., two hours early.

Avraham Ben-Shabbat, secretary-general of the Histadrut Teachers Union, said the schools were shutting early because of poor sanitary conditions caused by the strike. "The lack of cleaning services seriously endangers the health of the pupils and teachers," he said.

Travelers forced to go via Egypt, Jordan. Page 3

National Religious Party whip Hanan Porat called on the union of religious teachers not to strike today.

Union leaders, meanwhile, decided last night to allow El Al planes stuck abroad to land through the night and today, despite the strike.

The strike has shut down government offices, telephone, water and electricity services, banks, day-care centers, airports, sea ports and garbage collection since Wednesday, at a cost of over NIS 100 million to the economy.

Rubinstein issued his instructions at 10:30 p.m. last night, saying he had acted for "lack of an alternative and following appeals to the Histadrut to abide by the back-to-work orders, which they failed to do," the Justice Ministry spokesperson said.

"It is impossible to negotiate at a time when they are in contempt of court, but as soon as the Histadrut decides to honor [the court orders] the negotiations will of course be reopened," the spokesperson said.

President Ezer Weizman renewed efforts last night to get the sides back to the negotiating table, after the talks broke off.

Before the rupture in the talks, Histadrut and Treasury officials were locked in marathon meetings, exchanging position papers.

The Histadrut wants the government to uphold agreements reached in March 1995 and May 1996 regarding pensions. The unions are also worried that privatization plans could bring layoffs and harm benefits.

The government response to the Histadrut strike seemed unusually tough. But Rubinstein acted after the unions ignored his midday appeal, in which he warned that continuing the strike in the face of court orders "could lead to total anarchy."

See STRIKE, Page 12

Albright expects pullback specifics

By NELLE KUTTNER and JAY BUSHINSKY

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is expecting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to offer a package in their Paris meeting today that she can present to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat tomorrow in Geneva, a senior US administration official said.

While Netanyahu's redeployment plans should be a significant part of the package, the US is also interested in how he will meet a request to put a hold on settlement building, the official added.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, intends to brief Albright about the "principles" guiding the next planned redeployment, without being specific about how much area will be transferred to the PA or evacuated by the IDF.

Netanyahu's presentation is expected to include references to the maps submitted by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to the cabinet committee charged with formulating the scope of the pullback, a senior official traveling with the prime minister said.

But Netanyahu will stress that an explicit territorial formula has not yet been agreed on, the official went on.

"If there was a single message sent in the Levy-Abu Mazen meeting [with Albright here last month], it was the criticality of moving on further redeployment," the senior US official said.

"I would see those talks as confirming the importance of moving on this issue," the official said.

"We understand it's difficult for the prime minister, but if you want to get to where the prime minister says he wants to be - final-status [negotiations] - this is what you have to do."

The US wants to get some sense from Netanyahu of both the amount of land he is prepared to concede and a timetable for land transfer to both partial and full PA control, the official said.

US President Bill Clinton met yesterday with Albright and the peace process team.

'False information' affair to be dealt with in court - senior official

By JAY BUSHINSKY

An unnamed individual referred to yesterday by MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer in a Channel 1 interview was at the center of the "false information" affair that could have plunged Israel into an unnecessary war with Syria.

Ben-Eliezer talked about "a man," while carefully avoiding any other details. Instead, he stressed the former government's sagacity in discounting what turned out to be bogus reports of Syria's purported intention to attack Israel, rather than make peace.

A senior official, in a briefing in conjunction with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's flight to Germany yesterday, said that "whoever it was that submitted the false information did not act on the basis of political motivations."

He refused to divulge if the information had been reported for reasons of prestige or for monetary gain.

"We are referring to a grave phenomenon which is being investigated and which certainly will be dealt with in court," he said.

He praised Mossad head Danny Yatom for his honesty and for having "expunged the unlearned bread in our midst." By doing so, he went on, Yatom put an end to the flow of false information which had been going on for nearly a decade.

The affair evidently included the receipt of phony intelligence data that related to the movements of Syria's 14th Armored Division in the Mt. Hermon area during the summer and fall of 1996.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the general staff, and the intelligence establishment regarded the affair with utmost concern.

See AFFAIR, Page 22

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Haifa	4:06 p.m.	5:12 p.m.
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Eilat	4:19 p.m.	5:20 p.m.



Henry Kissinger on Iraq
 In Sunday's Jerusalem Post

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NEWS

in brief

Police probing anti-Rabin tape

Police said yesterday that in response to a complaint by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), it has begun an investigation into who was behind the dissemination of tape cassettes besmirching Yitzhak Rabin and praising Yigal Amir, his assassin. The tape was distributed in settlements a month ago coinciding with the second anniversary of the assassination. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Lahad: IDF can withdraw from security zone

South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad said he supported an IDF withdrawal from the security zone. "I asked Israeli government to agree to a withdrawal in the framework of a program that would assure security on the border, and to give up the demand for a peace treaty with Lebanon, which, since it is under Syrian protection, in any case can't sign such a treaty," Lahad said. He said he believed the IDF could withdraw to the international border without a treaty, relying only on security arrangements. "I believe the Israeli government is not far from such a suggestion, if it would be raised by an influential and trustworthy element." *lim*

Beersheba court weighs freedom for Klingberg

The Beersheba District Court said yesterday it was studying conditions for a possible release of Marcus Klingberg, 78, who is serving a 20-year sentence for espionage, but that it would postpone a decision for another two months. Klingberg was convicted in 1983 of revealing information about biological warfare to the Russians, while he was deputy head of the Biological Institute at Ness Ziona. Klingberg has asked to be released, saying he is ill and would like to spend his final days with his family. Former General Security Service head Ya'acov Pery testified in July that Klingberg was no longer a security risk. *lim*

Two dead, 15 hurt in accidents

A woman was struck by a car and killed as she crossed a Beersheba street yesterday morning. In Soroka Hospital in the city, Ilan Rofeh, 36, of Yehud, died late Wednesday night of injuries he suffered when a truck hit his parked car Monday afternoon.

Four young women were injured, two seriously, when their car overturned on the Golan Heights. The driver had just gotten her license and apparently lost control of the car, police said.

Eight people were lightly hurt in a three-car pile-up near Kafri Ara in the Nahal Iron region.

Two pedestrians were hurt in Bnei Brak when a car ran up on the sidewalk and hit them. The car then hit a tree and the driver was also hurt. *lim*

Funeral planned for ancient Jewish defenders

The remains of 30 Jews who died in a Galilee uprising against the Romans will be buried with full military honors, the Antiquities Authority said yesterday.

The bones were originally thrown into a cistern after four Roman legions stormed the city of Yodfat in 68 C.E., Mordechai Aviam, the authority's northern district archeologist said. He said that the victims were children and teenagers under 16. A funeral date hasn't been set yet. *AP*

IDF traces leaker of Levine speech

By AREH O'SULLIVAN

In an unprecedented effort to eliminate leaks, the IDF has tracked down the officer responsible for leaking to the press OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine's alleged statements in a closed door meeting that he favored a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Levine later denied that was his position, but nevertheless the report sparked a flurry of renewed debate over the IDF's presence in Lebanon and embarrassed the general staff by revealing a split in the army's private assessments.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak ordered Field Security to investigate. According to subsequent reports,

Levine made the statements to participants in a brigade commanders' course, and the investigators discovered that a reserve officer attending the course passed Levine's remarks on to another officer in his brigade. This was forbidden since it was considered "classified information," the army said.

The other officer then leaked it to *Ha'aretz* on his own initiative, the army said.

In a statement to the press, the army stressed that participants in the course were repeatedly warned that they were privy to sensitive and classified information intended for their ears only and could not be shared.

The army said that the investigation was handed to the Judge-Advocate General's Office and it would decide whether the two officers would be court-martialed.

Peace Now hands out chocolate to settlers

By MARGOT DUBKEVITCH

On the eve of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Peace Now demonstrators banded out "peket zman" chocolates, at the gates of Alfei Menashe yesterday. The Hebrew name means "time-out."

Tenders were advertised this week for the construction of 900 government-supported housing units in Alfei Menashe.

Mayor Shlomo Katan said yesterday that the housing in question is part of a plan approved by a former government, and that they recently were authorized to advertise for contractors.

Katan said that infrastructure work would start in the spring and that housing would be constructed in groups of 100-200 units at a time. He said the settlement also received permission several months ago to construct 300 housing units on private land on another hilltop and that the Housing Ministry had approved construction of yet another 72 units elsewhere in the settlement.

Katan, speaking with the 30 demonstrators, argued that "our building doesn't worry the Arabs, only the Jews." He added that despite the protests, hundreds of families continue to make their homes in the settlements.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media coordinator Avi Benayahu said yesterday that 560 housing units had been approved for two sites in Alfei Menashe, near the Green Line.

ALBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

He "wanted to provide some guidance to her, in advance of those meetings, and also to review some of the effort the US will make to encourage the parties in deal with some of the issues that are on the agenda, both short-term and long-term," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

State Department spokesman James Rubin told reporters that in her meeting with Netanyahu, Albright has "every reason to expect that this will be a substantive discussion," with a focus "on the substantive aspects of the further redeployment."

In the components of the redeployment issue alone, the US formulation bears a striking resemblance to the famous four-legged table that guided Israeli-Syrian talks on a potential Golan Heights-for-peace deal, which included the depth of withdrawal, the nature of peace, security arrangements and the timetable for each step.

As the US official explained it: "What the US wants to know is what is the package that'll be presented to the Palestinians? What's the phase and content of the first two further redeployments? It's not a question of looking at a target date alone. What's the content, what's the quality?"

The official also said the administration would prefer that the Palestinians finally sign the all-but-completed interim agreements on such issues as a Gaza-West Bank safe passage route, rather than refrain as a means of maintaining the heat on Israel on the redeployment question.

He insisted that the US is "as actively engaged" in bringing those matters to closure as it is in trying to move beyond them into what Albright has referred to as



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gestures as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu looks on, prior to their meeting yesterday in Bonn. Kohl refused to allow reporters' questions, saying "We are not in the White House here."

the four-part agenda of redeployments, a recess in settlement building, improving security, and advancing to final-status talks.

After Netanyahu and Albright meet in Paris, Albright will fly to Geneva for talks with Arafat. Bonn was the first stop on the prime minister's Western European itinerary yesterday,

where he was the dinner guest of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Among those present was Berndt Schmidtbauer, the German official who has been trying to negotiate the release of Ron Arad and retrieve from Lebanon the remains of Itamar Iya, who was killed in the failed naval commando raid there in September.

Netanyahu urged Kohl to convey an urgent request to Russian President Boris Yeltsin that Russia cease its supply of ballistic missile expertise to Iran.

Immediately after the prime minister's return to Israel on Sunday, he will convene a third session of the cabinet committee on West Bank redeployment.

Barak: I would draft yeshiva students

By SARAH HONIG

If elected prime minister, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak plans to conscript all yeshiva students either into the military or some form of national service, according to party sources. They reported that Barak has been saying this in internal Labor deliberations on the eve of the party convention, which opens at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

The convention will be largely devoted to ideological deliberations and Barak has made sure that there will be no votes or decisions on any contentious issues.

Barak, the sources said, has been adamant about his intention to end the deferments granted to yeshiva students. He has also been talking about the need to involve Arabs in national service, although he has been considerably less forceful on this issue and less focused on the precise sort of service.

Barak is expected to make a public statement on the issue at the convention, according to the sources. He has reached the con-

clusion, according to one source close to him, that the haredi vote is lost to any Labor prime ministerial candidate regardless of what he says and does.

Meanwhile, the furor over Barak's comments about the possibility of primaries for Knesset candidates may not be held if elections are advanced has eased off.

Barak seemed to backtrack somewhat yesterday, saying that he is "by no means anti-primaries. In fact I am an enthusiastic supporter of primaries. It is the only system which I have known in my short

political career. I only spoke about needing to consider what can be or cannot be done in a short amount of time that would be at our disposal if early elections are called."

No one in Labor had come out in support of Barak's claim that the 60 days allotted for the entire campaign in the event of early elections is insufficient for primaries.

The consensus in Labor is that Barak will not dare do away with the primaries, as it was made clear to him that he would suffer a humiliating loss if he tried.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly PAYS HAZAK drawing ticket number 588819 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 372103 won the car. Tickets 074990, 783240, 660729, 780507, 743368, 312006, 355325 and 522299 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 16092, 04814, 56896, 08539, 71581, 67101, 17195, 19691, 99757, 80706, 47583, 60724, 52132, 50824, 68927, 31631, 53029, 36282 and 39277 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 267,152,829 and 431 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 64,63,16 and 51 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 71 and 85 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 4 and 6 won NIS 10.

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Agnes Heller, (New York): Tradition and New Beginnings
Steven Aschheim, (Jerusalem): "Hannah Arendt in Jerusalem"

Wednesday, December 10
8:30: *Politics and Philosophy*
Antonia Grunenberg, (Bremen): Public sphere and public spirit
Albrecht Wellmer, (Berlin): On Revolution
10:30: *The Origins of Totalitarianism Reconsidered*
Shlomo Avineri, (Jerusalem): Arendt's Construction of Modern History and Jewish Identity
Bernard Crick, (Edinburgh): The Burden of our Times
Michael Halberstam, (Columbia): The Totalitarian Sublime
14:30 *Hannah Arendt and Zionism*
Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, (Jerusalem): The Question of Palestine
Moshe Zimmermann, (Jerusalem): Arendt's Critical Approach towards Zionism
Richard J. Bernstein, (New York): Hannah Arendt's Zionism?
16:30 *Hannah Arendt, Jewish History and Identity*
Robert Wistrich, (Jerusalem): The "Jewish Question" in History and Politics
Liliane Weissberg, (Philadelphia): In Search of the Mother Tongue

Thursday, December 11
9:00: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*
Hans Mommsen, (Bochum): Arendt's Interpretation of the Holocaust
Yu'acov Lozovick, (Jerusalem): Malicious Clerks
Michael Marrus, (Toronto): Justice and History
Liora Bilsky, (Tel Aviv): The Shade of Kastner in the Eichmann Trial
Richard Cohen, (Jerusalem): A Generation's Response
14:30 *Arendt and German Culture*
Gabriel Motzkin, (Jerusalem): Arendt on Love and Bildung
Anton Rabinbach, (Princeton): German Guilt - Jaspers' Guilt
Peter Baehr, (St. John's): The Deflected Judgement
Dana Villa, (Princeton): The Anxiety of Influence
Annette Weinackel, (Berlin): Hannah Arendt and Martin Heidegger
20:00 *Concluding Roundtable: The Legacy of Hannah Arendt*

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* This new hour-long program in English of "Women in Green" will be broadcast every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m.

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מסגרת השבת

Strike empties bank machines

By ELLI WOHLGELANTER

Is the strike having any effect on your life? Well, you can still get where you're going when the buses are running on a reduced schedule, delay dealing with Bezeq or the post office, wait a few days to get a new passport, or ignore the garbage piling up outside waiting for a pickup.

But if you need cash to hand to pay for something, you need it now, and that's when you can see the real and immediate effects of the strike - it wasn't just banks that were closed yesterday, it was also the automatic teller machines on the street.

And that had people fuming. "This is disgusting," "Low-life scam."

And that was some of the polite things that were overheard yesterday at the corner of Bet Ya'acov and Jaffa streets, at the Discount Bank teller machine right by the Mahaneh Yehuda souk.

People stopping there for money to buy food for Shabbat were desperate: you don't pay by check or Visa in the cash-flow business of the market, where so many transactions are made under five shekels.

"This is very upsetting," said Mirav Ettinger, who had come in from Ma'aleh Adumim to do her shopping at Mahaneh Yehuda.

"I'll have to go back home now and go to the supermarket and buy with my Visa card."

"I have a Visa card, but on one here takes it," said Tatiana Berman. "What do I do now?" She thought a second and shrugged her shoulders. "I guess I'll have to go to the corner grocery store and buy on credit."

Others said they would have to borrow cash - "it's the one thing we can do easily in Israel even with a strike" - or ask friends to cash their checks.

Many sighed and took it in stride, just another of life's burdens, although one woman was visibly upset, saying she had no money to get on the bus to go home.

While most moved on to figure out how they were going to buy food for Shabbat, some bystanders were eager to add their comment on the whole strike situation.

"This is all political - it's so transparent," said Yitzhak Be-Meir. "Everything that's happened in this country in the last year and a half is just to bring down the government of [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu."

"All this is just to help [Histadrut Secretary-General Amir] Peretz," said Nadav Tzoni. "He told them 'You want me to help you? You have to strike.' So they followed him. For what?"



Police remove a sanitation worker from a pile of garbage during a protest by striking workers in Tel Aviv yesterday. The strike, which started at the beginning of the week, may be nearing its end, as Mayor Ronni Milo and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz are expected to sign an agreement tomorrow night regulating garbage collection in the city. (Yael Sorek/Israel Sun)

Travelers forced to go through Egypt, Jordan

By NAMI SHAPIRO

With her soo Zvi's bar mitzva this Shabbat and 17 guests expected to come from abroad, Michelle Freedman was close to tears.

"It's ruined everything for me," she said of the strike which paralyzed the country's airports.

Luckily, she said, the grandparents were already in Israel, but uncles and cousins and friends had found themselves stranded. Last night, some were still making valiant efforts to arrive. An uncle called to say that he and his children would fly to Cairo and then take a taxi to Ra'anana. Other relatives were hoping to come via Amman.

El Al spokesman Naebman Klieman, who said yesterday that the strike has cost the company some \$6 million in lost income, parking and maintenance fees and hotels and food for stranded passengers, reported that six flights were being allowed to land. They were from Vienna, Barcelona, the US and Canada, all with coffins aboard.

There was also a flight from Chicago and New York, diverted to Antalya, with a 75-year-old passenger who had recently undergone open-heart surgery. Another plane allowed to land was a Turkish Airlines flight from Izmir, carrying kidney dialysis patients in need of urgent treatment.

For the country's tourism industry, already in the doldrums, the strike only made things worse. A major tourism conference in Eilat, which was to have been held this weekend, had to be canceled.

"Tourism, which has been in a crisis from the beginning of the year, has received yet another blow," said Avi Rosental, director of the Hotel Association. The conference in Eilat had been planned a year in advance and all the work was going down the drain, he said.

Not only were visitors angry about not being able to get in or get out, he said, the hotels at the Dead Sea were without water as a result of a strike by Mekorot.

Tourism Minister Moshe Kasav said yesterday that the strike was causing tremendous damage to tourism and that those who would suffer were workers in the tourism industry. The ministry said that in light of European regulations, which hold travel agencies financially responsible for ruined vacations, European tour organizers could face a wave of lawsuits.

Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, termed the cancellation of the Eilat event a major disaster, which could compound the effects of the massacre in Luxor last month. He noted that some 32 charter flights a week are due in Eilat this winter, compared to 44 flights last winter. The conference might have helped to rectify that, he said.

Court orders Mekorot employees back to work

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and DAVID RUDGE

The Tel Aviv Labor Court yesterday ordered Mekorot's 400 striking employees to resume their posts immediately, to repair all the breakdowns that occurred during the two-day strike, and to report their progress by noon today.

By last night Rosh Ha'ayin's water supply was renewed, after being cut off for two days. Firemen had been distributing water to residents in fire engines. Hadera, the settlements of Gush Etzion, the Golan junction region

in the North, and the Negev's Nevatim and Eilat were also cut off, while Tiberias's sewerage system overflowed into the Kinneret and is polluting the water in the region. The overflow was in an area close to the place where drinking water is pumped, the bathing areas of the Tiberias hot springs and city hotels.

The Health Ministry said that drinking water in the area must be boiled, and that it is forbidden to use drinking fountains there until further notice.

The ministry also ordered increased chlorination of the water at the Kinneret pumping station and the bathing beaches.

Despite the strike, municipal workers were trying to locate the cause of the breakdown and to fix it under supervision of the district health officer.

Hotels around the Dead Sea were also affected by the disruptions. The Cattle Breeders Association reported that shortages of water, particularly in the Galilee, had caused many cows to suffer miscarriages which could cause serious harm to dairy herds.

Judy Siegel contributed to this report.

Absorption process comes to a halt

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Most citizens had their lives disrupted by the Histadrut general strike in one way or another, but for those who were unlucky enough to choose to immigrate very recently, the paralysis of the nation's bureaucracy brought the process of absorption to a screeching halt.

"I feel completely frustrated and utterly disempowered," said Suzanne Sundry, who, along with her two daughters and husband Rael, immigrated from Johannesburg only two weeks ago. The couple, both 30, were sitting in a park in Ra'anana in what has become an enforced vacation, with their two daughters, Batsheva, 3, and Michal, 1.

Rael Sundry ticked off a list of the urgent tasks that they were unable to accomplish. "Suzanne is a teacher. She needs to register at the Education Ministry for retraining - they're on strike. I'm a doctor. I need to register with the Health Ministry - they're on strike. All of our worldly possessions have arrived on our lift. They are sitting in Haifa port because they can't be unloaded - the port is on strike. We can't arrange for them to be moved to Jewish Agency storage - the Jewish Agency is on strike. The License Bureau is on strike so we can't get our driver's licenses, without which we can't

purchase a car." Suzanne was most concerned about the fact that her daughter's nursery school in the Ra'anana absorption center, where they are living, was closed due to the strike.

"We had such a hard time adjusting Batsheva; for a week she cried that she didn't like the gan. Well, she finally got used to it, and now it's closed again, and she's sad that she can't go. It's like we took two steps forward and one step back."

They said their Hebrew classes were in operation, but since they and their companions were saddled with their young children, "the classes are in total pandemonium."

Rael said that despite the hardship, they were not reconsidering their decision to move to Israel. Even if they did suddenly choose to return to South Africa, the airport strike would make it impossible to find a flight.

"Of course it raises questions for us, but we wouldn't go back on our decision," he said. "The bottom line, I guess, is that the absorption process takes patience. We just need a little bit more than usual."

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December 28, 1997

Annual Family Party in Hebron

Israel, Turkey maneuver to be held in January

By METEHAN DEMIR

ANKARA - High level Turkish military sources have said that the military exercise involving Israel, Turkey and the US is to be held in January.

The maneuver will be launched off the Israeli coast and continue into the international waters of the Mediterranean.

Sources said that details of the exercise will be discussed during Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's trip to Turkey at the beginning of next week.

News media will be permitted to monitor the exercise from Israel, Turkish military sources said.

The planned maneuver has drawn strong reactions from Arab countries, which are worried about Turkey allying itself with Israel against them.

Sources said that the Turkish military was following a policy of balance in the Mideast.

The exercise was postponed about two months ago, according to Pentagon sources, because of a joint military maneuver involving "war scenarios" held between the US and Israel.

A report at the time also noted that both the US and Israel were concerned about overlapping these maneuvers with the one with Turkey so as to avoid any misunderstanding in the Arab world.

Another date of November 30 was also postponed over Turkish concern that it would coincide with an Islamic Conference held in Tehran.

Official defense links between Israel and Turkey were launched with a military training cooperation agreement signed in 1996.



Touring Erez

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai tours the industrial zone of the Erez Checkpoint yesterday following Wednesday's announcement that some Palestinian workers would be allowed to stay overnight inside Israel. (AP)

California to end Swiss bank ban

SACRAMENTO (Reuters) - California will announce on Monday that it is suspending its moratorium on investments with Swiss banks for three months, the office of Treasurer Matt Fong said yesterday.

"It's time to trust and verify the actions of the Swiss banks," Fong said in a news release. "Beginning next week, Swiss investments will be considered in the same manner as any other - based on which investment provides the greatest benefit for the state's taxpayers."

Fong announced in October that California would boycott direct investments with Swiss banks in an attempt to force the banks to disclose more information about their role in handling deposits of Holocaust victims.

Fong said he had been "generally pleased" with the actions of Swiss banks since the moratorium was imposed, but added that its suspension is contingent on the banks' continued progress.

Turkey seeks more Popeye missiles from Israel New group seeks PM's resignation

By METEHAN DEMIR

ANKARA - Turkey has decided to increase its Popeye missile order from Israel from 100 to 200 after a series of talks concerning the scale of its F-4 modernization program and the Popeye missile deals, according to both Turkish and Israeli sources.

Turkish and Israeli teams have been negotiating the details of the agreement on the precision-guided, long-range missiles. The missile purchase will be the key issue in bilateral talks when Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai visits Turkey next week.

A defense source said that the Popeye I missile can be used on Turkey's F-16s and F-4s, and that it can destroy the Russian-made S-300 missiles that are to be transferred to Cyprus.

The possible transfer of the S-300 missiles to

Cyprus has led to storms between Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. Turkey has threatened that if Cyprus buys the missiles, it will destroy them in an air operation.

Israel, however, is reportedly preparing to charge the Turks more for its F-4 upgrade program to cover the cost of the additional missiles.

An agreement to prepare Turkish F-4s to carry Popeye missiles and to deliver a small number of missiles was included in the \$632 million upgrade program, Israeli defense sources said.

The upgrade program is under way by Israel Aircraft Industries.

But Israeli defense sources said Israel could not include any more missiles at that price.

"We are still negotiating with Turkish officials and we think that they will show understanding as to why we are increasing the cost of

the modernization program," a source said. Israel recently began to deliver the first of 100 Popeye missiles sold to Turkey in an earlier \$100m deal.

The two countries have also agreed in principle to the joint production of hundreds of Popeye II missiles.

An agreement is expected shortly on a \$500m deal to jointly produce the long-range missile, an advanced model of the Popeye I.

MIKES, a Turkish firm, will produce data links for the missiles, while another Turkish firm, Roketsan, will produce the ignition system and components, and Israel's Rafael will provide the transfer technology. The first Popeye II is expected to be delivered in two-and-a-half years.

By the end of the Turkish F-4 upgrade program, all of the planes will be equipped with Popeye I and II capabilities.

By DAVID RUDGE

Two protest tents have been set up by members of a newly-formed movement calling for the replacement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu because of what they described as the harm he and his administration have caused to "integrity of government."

The new tents - manned 24-hours a day by volunteers - were pitched on Wednesday alongside the Yagur junction, near Haifa, and the Karkur intersection on the Nahal Irtzo road, near Pardes Hanna.

Two other protest tents, at the Rosh Pina junction and near the Shefayim shopping complex off

the Coastal Road, have been operating for a month and over two weeks respectively.

According to lawyer Arik Sherman, one of the founders and initiators of the "Protest Tents for the Replacement of Prime Minister Netanyahu," there is a growing groundswell of public support for the aims of the group.

"The fact that the Rosh Pina protest tent has been operating non-stop, 24-hours-a-day for over a month and more have been established in other parts of the country by people who feel the need to do the same is indicative of the mood of many people," said Sherman, of Mitzpe Amuka in Upper Galilee.

He stressed that the movement is apolitical and is based on the single issue of good government or what he described as the lack of it in the present administration.

"We are not arguing about the policies of the government or who might replace Netanyahu, only that he is not suitable to be prime minister," he said. "We have people who are Likud supporters disillusioned with the prime minister."

"We are calling on the prime minister to resign," Sherman said. "If he doesn't, our aim is to persuade at least 61 MKs who have a conscience, but lack courage, to pass a no-confidence motion that would bring down the government."

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Jospin coalition rattled by immigration debate

PARIS (Reuters) - The French parliament yesterday launched a bitter debate over the left-wing government's second immigration bill in a row that could weaken widespread support for Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Both the center-right opposition and some in the government's own leftist majority have harshly criticized the legislation aimed at softening hardline laws governing foreigners' entry into France and their right to stay on French soil.

The bill, the third to reform immigration laws in the last five years, will be debated for nine days and is not due to go to a vote until December 16.

Some 40 speeches are scheduled before the National Assembly begins examining the 1,700 amendments proposed so far.

The assembly last Saturday approved government legislation

aimed at restoring automatic French citizenship to those born on French soil of foreign parents, a right that had been taken away by the previous conservative government.

Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who drafted the bill being taken up yesterday, said it had three fundamental goals.

They were "to stabilize the situation of legal immigrants and reintegrate them, if they so desire, into the republic; to reaffirm France's openness to the world... and finally, to control the influx of immigrants while respecting foreigners' rights."

With unemployment sticking stubbornly over 12 percent, opinion polls consistently find that most French adults favour a hard-line approach on immigration.

Political analysts say France's deep divisions over immigration

policy can only be inflamed by the debate, bolstering the far-right National Front, which wants to ship home millions of immigrants.

The opposition accuses the government of trying to strengthen the National Front ahead of coming cantonal and regional elections to further divide the already badly splintered mainstream right.

The immigration issue could hand Jospin's government its first major political setback since it came to power last June in a parliamentary upset victory.

The Communists, Greens and radical leftists - all members of Jospin's ruling coalition - say the measure does not go far enough in easing existing laws and are threatening to abandon the government if their objections are not met.

The latest reform drive was triggered by a Socialist Party promise

during the election campaign to repeal reforms by previous conservative governments which erected new barriers to immigrant residence permits and requests for political asylum while making it easier to boot out illegal immigrants.

But rather than revoke those laws, as promised, Jospin has chosen only to modify parts of them.

Nonetheless, conservatives warn the bill, if adopted, would trigger unrestrained immigration into France.

"While [previous] laws had resulted in an indispensable balance between firmness and generosity, the government and the prime minister prefer to play the sorcerer's apprentices by reopening a debate that falls into the extremists' trap," said opposition Gaullist deputy Dominique Perben.

EU slams host Japan's negotiation tactics

CLIMATE SUMMIT

TOKYO (Reuters) - A landmark conference on curbing greenhouse gas emissions bubbled with toil and trouble yesterday when the European Union (EU) slammed host Japan for not negotiating fairly.

In exchanges also involving the US, the biggest players in the global warming debate let down their diplomatic guard in pressing their cases for what should be done.

The exchanges ranged over political systems in the US and EU, who is winning the public relations battle, and interpretation of terms like "bubble" and "sinks," phrases incomprehensible to the layman.

More than 160 countries are meeting in this ancient Japanese city until December 10 to discuss ways to curb a series of gases scientists say threaten to cause changes to global climate in the form of warmer temperatures, more violent storms, rising sea levels and a melting of polar ice.

Business leaders worry the cost of curbing the gases would stifle economic growth and threaten jobs by imposing needs for fuel and other energy efficiencies.

The "bubble" row set the scene for a lively meeting in Washington today between President Bill Clinton and EU President Jacques Santer where global warming will be discussed.

Most delegates believe that with the conference hopelessly split over a host of issues, only by political intervention such as in

the Clinton-Santer meeting can the meeting be saved and an agreement reached.

The term that fit the fuse in Kyoto on the fourth day of the meeting was the EU's so-called "bubble," under which it proposes cutting gases by 15 percent from 1990 levels for the bloc as a whole, a plan that infuriates the US and Japan because it allows some individual EU nations to increase their emissions.

The US proposes just stabilizing emissions at 1990 levels while Japan wants a five percent reduction.

Japan questioned the fairness of the 15-country bloc's plan to share emission cuts between its richer and poorer members to achieve a collective target.

Luxembourg's ambassador to Japan, Pierre Gramagna, the current EU delegation head, found the suggestion unacceptable.

"We cannot understand that the host country is leading this offensive, because we think the host country should be more of a broker here to achieve agreement," Gramagna said. "In this particular question, that's not the case and we find that extremely regrettable."

Japanese delegation leader Toshiaki Tanabe said the EU plan gives its countries an unfair

advantage which it should pay for in the form of higher cuts in emissions.

"Everybody recognizes that by taking joint action to reduce emissions, the EU member countries can have advantages which are not accorded to non-EU countries," Tanabe told reporters.

Under the EU deal, thrashed out in principle by its environmental ministers last March, action would range from a 30% cut by Luxembourg to a 40% rise by Portugal.

Denmark, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Italy, and the Netherlands; would also make cuts; France and Finland would freeze emissions at 1990 levels. Sweden, Ireland, Spain, and Greece would have emission rises.

US delegation head Melinda Kimble said her country does not object to the EU proposal in principle, but she raised similar queries to those of the Japanese.

"I am not disputing the constitutional principle behind having a bubble, but that's no reason not to have transparency and accountability," she said.

Since the conference started on Monday, the EU and US have sniped at each other over how dramatic gas cuts should be.

The "bubble" was another opportunity.

"I fail to see why it would be cheaper to introduce fuel efficiency in Europe rather than in Japan and the United States," an EU spokesman said.

Westminster rejects Sinn Fein benefits bid

LONDON (Reuters) - Two Sinn Fein leaders elected to the British Parliament last May failed yesterday to win the right to use its facilities without taking their seats.

Speaker Betty Boothroyd turned

the request down when she met the two: Gerry Adams, the leader of the IRA's political wing and party strategist Martin McGuinness.

Adams and McGuinness have

refused on principle to take their seats in Parliament and swear an oath of loyalty to Queen Elizabeth.

But they say they are entitled to the same benefits as other members, such as House of Commons passes.

"There are facilities here that would allow us to better represent those who elected us. We have the right to those facilities," Adams said as he walked into the Gothic 19th century building.

When he came out half an hour later, he said the meeting with Boothroyd was quite cordial and friendly.

"Unfortunately the speaker did not take the opportunity to reverse her decision taken in May," he said.

Adams said a legal challenge to the ruling in the European Court of Human Rights would continue.

The Sinn Fein leader will be back in London next week for an unprecedented meeting with

Prime Minister Tony Blair. Asked why the Sinn Fein members would not take their seats, he replied: "I'm an Irish republican. My allegiance and that of Martin McGuinness and more importantly the allegiance of the people who voted for us is to the people of Ireland."

He said the failure to reach a compromise was "part of the old knee-jerk agenda. I think it shows she sees people in Northern Ireland as second class citizens. It shows once again in relation to Ireland that British democracy does not work."

However, Boothroyd defended her ruling. "My decision does not discriminate against Sinn Fein: it applies equally to any members not taking their seats for any reason," she said in a statement. "Those who do not take up their democratic responsibilities cannot have access to the facilities at Westminster that are made available to assist members who do."

NATO: No plans for North Africa force

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - NATO yesterday denied a newspaper report that it had contingency plans for a future peacekeeping operation commanded from Spain that could deploy thousands of troops in neighboring North Africa.

"At this point there is no contingency plan at all that relates to North African countries or projecting force to North African countries," an official NATO source told Reuters.

"Furthermore NATO has not yet agreed on any force structure for the headquarters, no force levels have been assigned yet," said the official, who called the Spanish newspaper report "speculative."

She was commenting on a report in the *El Mundo* newspaper saying one possible future task for the new Joint Sub-Regional Command in Madrid would be to

ready plans for sending up to 50,000 troops to North Africa in case of a crisis.

Spain formally joined NATO's integrated command structure this week after defense ministers from London and Madrid resolved a hitch stemming from their old dispute over the sovereignty of Gibraltar.

Officials at NATO headquarters declined to comment on confidential documents upon which *El Mundo* said its report was partly based. But NATO sources pointed out that the alliance has a declared aim of projecting stability, including outside its borders if necessary, as in the case of Bosnia.

The headquarters in Spain would, by reason of simple geography, be called on if ever there were a military task to be carried out involving North Africa, they added.



Bosnian fashions
A model wears a dress from the 'Knitting Together Nations' collection presented at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on Wednesday. The collection was made by women in Bosnia, whose handiwork is designed to help the refugees help themselves. (AP)

Russia to charge American held for spying

By ADAM TANNER

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia will today press charges against a 29-year-old American telecommunications engineer detained on suspicion of spying, an official said yesterday.

A spokesman for the Federal Security Service (FSB) said Richard Bliss, who was arrested in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don on November 25, would face espionage charges, but he did not give details.

Roman Dyukarev, a spokesman for employer Qualcomm, said a representative of the US Embassy in Moscow was due in Rostov today, and said Bliss's attorney was expected to be present when charges were made.

The FSB said on Monday Bliss had carried out long-distance topographical surveys with what it called illegally-imported satellite receivers and obtained secret information about unspecified "restricted" buildings in the Rostov area.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Moscow has said Bliss was "certainly not" a spy. A resident of San Diego who did not speak Russian,

Bliss had been in Russia just over a month when he was detained, Dyukarev said. His job was to install and test a wireless communications system in Rostov. He is not married, but unspecified family members said in a statement that they were concerned by his plight.

"This was Richard's first trip to Russia and we are surprised and concerned that he is being detained against his will," they said.

Qualcomm, a San Diego-based maker of wireless communications gear, is working on projects in Chelyabinsk, Rostov and Moscow, and in October announced the launch of a high-tech \$5.3 million wireless network in Rostov.

"Qualcomm is absolutely keen to continue doing business with Russia and these plans did not change. There are on-going difficulties though," Dyukarev said.

The company said Bliss, who is now held at FSB headquarters in Rostov, had not knowingly committed any crime.

A second Qualcomm employee, one of three the company has with Bliss in Rostov, was detained on November 25 briefly and then released.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

Prof. ELAINE BERMAN

The funeral will take place today, Friday, December 5, 1997, leaving from Shangar Funeral Home at 12 noon for Har Hazeitum.

Daughter and son-in-law, Susie and Shimon Fisher
 Son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Nurit Berman
 Son and daughter-in-law, David and Orit Berman
 Grandchildren, Tal, Maya, Imri, Shimrit, Hadar, Amir, Naama, Nimrod

Shiva: 10 Aliyat Hanoar, Ramot, Jerusalem

We sadly mourn the death of

Peter Ungerleider

President of the Dorot Foundation

Ruth Ostrin Philip Warburg

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 a joint initiative of the Dorot and Nathan Cummings Foundations

With great sorrow, we express our deepest sympathy on the passing of

Rabbi MORDECHAI SHAPIRO ז"ל

Dr. Yitzhak and Ahuva Retter
 Miami Beach, FL

We will mark the first *yahrzeit* of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

SAM FRIDE ז"ל

on Monday, December 8, 1997 (9 Kislev) at 3:30 p.m., at the Herzliya cemetery (Pinsker St.).

The Family

ANNA BLAUKOPF GLASSGOLD

of Philadelphia, PA and Baltimore, MD
 Widow of Solomon S. Glassgold
 passed away on November 27th at the age of 98

Mourning by:
 Daughter: Betty Glassgold
 Son & Daughter-in-law: I. Leon and Jacqueline Glassgold
 Son & Daughter-in-law: Alfred and Irene Glassgold
 Grandchildren: Lori and Larry Gibson and family
 Marc Glassgold, Eric Glassgold
 Jill Glassgold, Judith Neshanic

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved

CORNELIA (KAY) LÖWENDORFF-DE HAAFF

will take place on Friday, December 12, 1997 - 6th Kislev 5758 at 11.00 a.m., at the Herzliya Cemetery, Rechov Pinsker, Herzliya

We will meet at the entrance to the cemetery

M. Dultscher
 E.Y. Spler

On the first *yahrzeit* of our beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Rabbi LEONARD OSCHRY ז"ל

we will gather on Tuesday, December 9, 1997 (10 Kislev) at Har Hamenuhot (section *mem-hef*), Jerusalem.
 We will meet at the entrance at 10 a.m.
 For transportation, call 02-563-7182 The Family

We mourn the passing of

IRENE WINTER ז"ל

Mother of Tzippy (Kfar Haroeh) and Moshe (Kibbutz Lavi)

She will be especially remembered by the thousands of children with whom she shared her extraordinary talents and love of Eretz Yisrael.

יחי זכרה ברוך

Bnei Akiva of North America Camp Moshava

The Jerusalem Foundation

mourns the loss of a dear friend

PHILIP BERMAN

and offers its sincere sympathies to

Muriel and the family.

מקום התחברות

Japan's tactics... which it should pay for... member countries... advantages which are... non-EL countries... deal, through the... its environment... action was... 3/2 cut... 4/5 rise...

S. Koreans feel humiliated after IMF bailout

By ROBIN BULMAN

SEOUL (Reuters) - An IMF-led rescue package for South Korea was expanded to a record \$57 billion yesterday, and many South Koreans reacted with humiliation and anger to the deal, even though it has breathed new life into the country's ailing economy.

The militant Korea Confederation of Trade Unions promised to wage "all-out strikes" if companies pushed for layoffs as a result of concessions to the IMF. South Korea was rocked by a month of worker unrest earlier this year after the government rammed a controversial labor law through parliament. The government was forced to postpone until 1999 a provision that would have made layoffs easier.

Political parties were especially eager to exploit voters' feelings of shame ahead of presidential elections scheduled for December 18.

"We cannot help but question the IMF's attitude. The IMF is acting as if it is an economic conqueror," the governing Grand National Party said in a statement. Lee Hoi-chang, the party's presidential candidate, on Wednesday promised to abide by the bail-out terms.

Lee is in a virtual dead heat with veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-jung of the National Congress for New Politics Party.

Kim's party said in a statement that December 3 would be remembered as "national economic humiliation day." The party said it would "immediately begin additional negotiations with the IMF" if it wins the election.

Kim had promised to carry out the IMF agreement in principle but said he would want to pursue talks on details if he wins.

In Tokyo, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said yesterday he had received support from "all key political forces" in South Korea for a reform program linked to the rescue package.

"I have received yesterday support from all key political forces for this program and a letter from each of the three candidates" in the presidential election to the effect that they would support the program if elected, Camdessus told a news conference. "I have received the same pledge from the president and the speaker of parliament," he said.



South Korean civic group members shout slogans during a street protest against the IMF agreement in Seoul yesterday. (AP)

Newspaper headlines lamented the country's humiliation over the IMF rescue package.

"South Korea has virtually lost its economic sovereignty for the next three years," said the Jonggang Ilbo.

The Kyung Hyang Shinmun said: "Don't forget the economic trusteeship of December 3."

The term has strong associations for South Koreans, who recall the trusteeship of Korea given to the US, the Soviet Union, Britain and China at the end of World War II that halted 35 years of Japanese colonial rule.

The Finance Ministry said the package of IMF-arranged loans had grown by \$2 billion to \$57b, after Italy said it would join in and three other countries increased their offerings.

About \$5.5b of the package would arrive in Seoul tomorrow evening and more than \$10b would be provided by year-end,

the ministry said.

The increases brought the total value of the country portion of Seoul's aid package to \$22b. The money is only supposed to be used if the \$35b committed by the IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank is inadequate.

Details were expected to be disclosed after the pact was formally approved by the IMF board of governors yesterday in Washington.

It is expected to call for Seoul to put the brakes on economic growth, liquidate or restructure troubled banks at the heart of the country's debt crisis, further open up the financial markets and end restrictive trade practices.

It was also expected to call for more transparency in government data and in the bookkeeping practices of major conglomerates.

Newspapers complained that the US and Japan had used South Korea's financial crisis as leverage

to force Seoul to open its markets further.

As part of the IMF deal, Seoul agreed to raise its foreign stock ownership ceiling on a combined or individual basis to 50 percent effective December 15.

At present, the shareholding limit for foreign individuals is 7% in a specific stock, while the combined foreign shareholding limit is 26%.

South Korea also agreed to allow Japanese products greater access to the Korean market, Finance Ministry officials said.

Previously, imports of Japanese goods had been restricted because of Japan's large trade surplus with South Korea.

South Korea markets responded to the package enthusiastically. Stocks closed up 6.99% to 405.81 points on the increase in the foreign shareholding limit.

South Korea's won surged on anticipated dollar inflows, closing

at 1,170.0, against Wednesday's close of 1,196.0.

Seoul is desperate for assistance because of a ticking time-bomb in the form of its short-term debt, the reason it called in the IMF.

South Korean media reported this week the central Bank of Korea had been forced to pay \$10b in short-term foreign debt on behalf of Korean banks over the last few days.

About \$66b of Korea's estimated \$120b in foreign debt is short-term, and about \$20b was due at the end of this year, analysts said.

The IMF package for South Korea is its biggest ever rescue effort, exceeding the \$50b rescue program for Mexico in early 1995.

Similar IMF packages were provided recently for Thailand and Indonesia. Thailand received \$17.2b and Indonesia \$40b, under IMF-led rescues that also involved offerings from other countries.

A nation's lock-keeper

Tiller man

Charlie McCrevey thinks the days are gone when a finance minister can choose "between being Santa Claus or Judge Dredd." But he decided to be Santa Claus anyway. It's easy to be flippant when your country is booming like a fat man chanting "Ho Ho Ho." McCrevey is Ireland's minister for finance, and it was his pleasant duty on Wednesday evening to present the state budget to parliament - tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts. It amounted to a hand-out of \$17 million Irish pounds (\$825m) for the three million Irish people.

Christmas is coming, and the goose is getting fat, so McCrevey put some pennies in the nation's hat.

But a jolly fat goose has been stalking the green hills of Erin for some time now, as if it were Christmas all the year round. On my desk are the yellowing supplements of the Irish newspapers from last Christmas, fairly bursting with glee and national pride. "Can it last in '97?" they asked, after three straight years of boom and growth. "Can Europe's tiger continue to roar?" It roared all right - Ireland's growth this year is a startling 7.7 percent, inflation an equally startling 1.5 percent.

McCrevey's father was a lock-keeper on Dublin's Royal Canal. With the budget papers flapping gently in his hand, he told the parliament that a finance minister must be just like a canal lock-keeper.

"One view of the Irish economy is that a river runs through it... the river is in flood, the flow couldn't be faster, and the rising tide is lifting all of the boats."

"That view is dangerous," he added sternly. "It's dangerous because it encourages us to relinquish our responsibility to pull people back from the margins, rescue the people slipping... The finance minister's function is close to that of a lock-keeper - bringing the water level up in one area of the waterway, down in another - so boats

can safely journey from one end of the canal to the other."

Last week, one of Ireland's great intellectuals died, former Trinity College professor Frank Mitchell. Mitchell became a minor legend for books that take the country's geology and landscape as a starting point, and from them read and reconstruct the line of people evolving from pre-history to the present.

Two years ago, for a mere pamphlet, "Where has Ireland Come From?" he was hailed as an extraordinary visionary. In it, he and a group of naturalists embark on a riveting journey through Ireland's geological ages, unravelling in a text so small the complex diversities of a land so small. From one end of the historical canal to the other.

Along the banks of the Royal Canal yesterday evening, Dubliners turned up their coat collars as they walked the dog in the crackling December air. The great black wooden lock gates stand immobile now, a remembrance of time past.

McCrevey's dad no longer leans on the creaking beam; mother McCrevey's son is in the House, charting the next millennium.

"We did not think earlier administrations for spending their way into our pockets," McCrevey tells the deputies. "Our children would not thank us for spending our way into theirs."

On the radio, the trade union leaders grumble that the budget is not so bad for the workers, but could be better. A young man without a job tells a reporter what national prosperity means to him: "Bogger all!" As he moves off, he stops and comes back to the camera. "That's not fair, I suppose. It's a good country. The whole country's doing its best."

A little poetry in the parliament, a little pride in the poorest, a little civility in the streets. Surely, they can't be unrelated.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Feed the world

The country takes well to prosperity. Last year, the newspapers were as proud of a booming culture - Riverdancers, rock bands, internationally acclaimed writers - as they were of the economy. Nor is it all selfish self-satisfaction. Mindful of the ghastly famine that devastated Ireland 150 years ago, young Irish people have carved a huge name for their small country in worldwide fame relief. Bob Geldof's Live Aid concerts may have been the public relations pinnacle, but the real miracle is millions of dollars collected every year from the smallest towns and villages to support national aid agencies wherever it is needed.

McCrevey's demeanor in delivering his first budget was noted in the foreign news agencies as much as the news he bore. It's an easy-going Dublin attitude, to life that all will be well, as long as we don't get carried away with our own importance.

As it landed with a depressing chunk on my desk, it was easy to assume the minister's budget speech would be another of those turgid, if essential, government blah-blahs. It was rare indeed to see a budget speech that asked to be read. Rare still is one that seems to have a real human being behind it - someone with a sense of joy and pleasure, even awe, at being asked to guide the destiny of the people who elected him.

After Reno says 'no' to independent counsel

Clinton-Gore finance investigation may still probe telephone calls

By ROBERTO SURO and SUSAN SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON (Washington Post) - Although Attorney-General Janet Reno decided against seeking an independent counsel investigation of fund-raising phone calls by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, officials said investigators still are pursuing allegations that the calls and a variety of other actions undertaken by the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election effort were part of a broad effort to circumvent campaign spending laws.

Reno's decision, announced Tuesday evening, illuminated fault lines of disagreement among prosecutors and investigators over how to proceed with the campaign finance inquiry, but officials on different sides of that debate emphasized Wednesday that no final conclusions on investigative strategy were reached and that most avenues of investigation remain open.

On Wednesday, senior officials at the Justice Department and the FBI refocused their efforts, following two weeks that were

almost completely consumed with internal debates over the decision regarding the phone calls. Renewed attention now may center on several long-expected indictments.

With grand juries operating in Washington and Los Angeles, lawyers and officials familiar with the investigation said they expect Justice's campaign finance task force to seek indictments, if not before the holidays then early next year. Also a priority are allegations that political coördinations and campaign contributions influenced Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's handling of an Indian casino license dispute.

The task force also may renew emphasis on its examination of fund-raising activities by top White House and Democratic National Committee officials. One active avenue of investigation is whether a conspiracy existed among those officials to get around limits on campaign spending by a variety of means.

Both in personal meetings and in a written

memorandum, FBI Director Louis L. Freebren Reno to seek an independent counsel to investigate that possibility. Although she chose not to take that course Tuesday, she did nothing to prevent investigators from now pursuing that theory, officials said.

However, career prosecutors in the public integrity section, led by Lee Radek, argued in internal debates that no evidence of such a conspiracy has developed in more than a year of investigation, said officials familiar with the discussions.

The chief prosecutor of the campaign finance task force, Charles G. LaBella, argued for a middle ground between Freebren and Radek, favoring an investigative effort to more fully understand the 1996 Clinton-Gore fund-raising effort to determine whether the suspicions of a conspiracy are justified.

Although Reno's decision has been criticized by Republican leaders as too narrow because it dealt only with the phone calls, some officials involved in the campaign finance inquiry viewed that limit as an

important benefit because it does not prevent investigators from probing any other matters. On the phone calls themselves, Reno's decisions only related to the law regarding fund-raising on federal property, and officials said the calls could be re-examined as acts in furtherance of a conspiracy.

Freebren's memo, according to officials familiar with its contents, cites a variety of evidence, including secret grand jury material, to support his argument in favor of the conspiracy theory. However, it does not allege specific crimes by individuals. He also argued for an independent counsel on grounds that the Justice Department has a broad, inescapable conflict of interest in this investigation because it involves so many senior officials in the administration to which it answers.

Some Republicans who argue that Reno is protecting the White House believe that Freebren's dissent will provoke a firestorm of public pressure that will cause Reno to seek an independent counsel.

Winnie Mandela protests her innocence

By TOM COHEN

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Winnie Madikizela-Mandela yesterday denied ordering the killing of a teenage activist or committing other alleged atrocities almost a decade ago in the Soweto black township.

In long-awaited testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the ex-wife of President Nelson Mandela described as "ludicrous and the worst lunacy" the charge that she ordered the death of 14-year-old Stompie Seipei in late 1988 or early 1989.

And she called charges that she ordered her former chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, to kill others "ridiculous." Madikizela-Mandela's appearance followed eight days of testimony by more than 30 witnesses. The Truth Commission is investigating 18 human rights abuses - including murder and torture - allegedly committed by Madikizela-

Mandela and her bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club.

The hearing is being televised live in South Africa by state television and internationally by CNN.

The commission, which is investigating apartheid-era human rights violations, lacks the power to press criminal charges but can turn over evidence to police.

Dressed in a modest blue suit and lime-green blouse with gold necklaces, Madikizela-Mandela appeared intent on denying all the accusations in a bid to maintain her status as a popular anti-apartheid leader.

She wants to run later this month for deputy president of the governing African National Congress, a position that could make her deputy president of the country after national elections in 1999.

The mainstream ANC leadership, including Mandela, opposes her nomination and the ANC Women's League, which oomina-

ted her, said it would reconsider its support.

In a composed but defiant tone yesterday, Madikizela-Mandela insisted that some of her attackers made up allegations against her. She rebuffed attempts by Truth Commission lawyer Hanif Vally to make her back down on her denials.

"I am not playing around and I will not tolerate you speaking to me like that," she barked at one point, bringing cheers from a group of her supporters in the back of the packed hearing room.

Commission chairman Desmond Tutu, a retired archbishop, admonished the crowd to stop such displays or risk getting thrown out. Under questioning from lawyers representing the families of her alleged victims, Madikizela-Mandela became agitated and evasive. Tutu intervened repeatedly to urge both the lawyers and Madikizela-Mandela to avoid aggressive or angry language.

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When the cat's out of the bag

Israel's policies toward Syria may have been distorted by a false intelligence source, but coherent debate on the topic is being stymied by the military censor's attempts to hold on to cats that are already out of the bag. If anything, the importance of such public scrutiny is rising in the wake of a string of failures by the secret services which cannot be swept under the rug, and for which there needs to be greater accountability.

The failure to block the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the botched assassination of Khaled Mashaal in Jordan, and now the duping of decision makers with false intelligence on Syria, are all failures which are unlikely to be attributable to bad luck or the general inevitability of mistakes.

The fact that the responsible institutions are all necessarily swathed in secrecy makes it difficult to judge both the nature of the problem and whether proper steps are being taken to correct it. What is evident even given these restrictions is that the officials responsible do not admit mistakes and do what is called in other countries "the honorable thing" and resign. Instead, an investigatory committee is appointed and it is taken for granted that those suspected or found responsible for the fiasco will fight for their reputations before the committee.

Public officials certainly have the right to defend themselves, and the problem of investigatory committees looking for scapegoats in cases where there really is no one to blame should not be dismissed. There is a strong argument that the increasingly legalistic approach to military training accidents has resulted in over-regulation that has hurt military effectiveness and could actually cost lives.

But not every failure results from a reasonable but mistaken judgment; many are caused by unvarnished negligence. And in the case of negligence with serious consequences, the purpose of punishment is not primarily to exact justice, but to protect society.

Negligence cannot be eliminated by a threat of punishment—or better yet, by a culture of taking responsibility for failures—but it certainly can be reduced. Sloppiness and honor are not exactly opposites, but they are not unrelated, either. If we

as a society do not recognize honor as a category with real implications in the case of failure, and are generally forgiving towards negligence, we will pay a price.

In the case of the secret services, the price can be especially high. The price paid as a result of the Rabin assassination is incalculable and irreversible. The Mashaal affair also caused serious, though perhaps temporary, damage to the critical relationship with Jordan and to the fight against terrorism. The damage from the misinformation on Syria, which overestimated Syria's aggressive intentions and might have led Israel to escalate the crisis of a year ago, was evidently averted by the prudence of decision makers who discounted the information.

Intelligence failures are further complicated by the difficulty of the public to employ normal democratic mechanisms of accountability, namely open scrutiny and analysis. Israel, understandably for a country with real and constant security threats, has a relatively tight system of military censorship. Israel is the only Western democracy that requires the media to submit stories to the military censor before publication. Despite recent changes, there is still room for further reform in this system, but censorship clearly has a legitimate role in preventing the considerable damage that could come from the compromise of the "sources and methods" aspect of intelligence.

A question arises, however, when an attempt is made to wrap a cloak of secrecy over information which has or is about to be published in the foreign press, and is therefore no longer a secret. The result of such attempts is often to create a strangely clipped public debate, in which the fact of some scandal is well known and widely discussed, while the heart of the matter is still under a cloud.

Censorship in such cases strays dangerously close to an attempt at protecting the intelligence services themselves, rather than their security mission. In the case of major security failures, preventing embarrassment is not a valid reason to keep information from the public, and in any case it is often counterproductive. An information vacuum does not always work to the benefit of those who seek to create it, given the active imagination of the public and the press.



Skipping a beat

MOSHE ARENS

Lives there an Israeli whose soul is so dead that his heart does not skip a beat as he hears the daily talk of the second redeployment and the additional percentage of the Land of Israel that is likely to be turned over to the control of the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo "peace process"?

And who among us is not torn between the desire to reach an accommodation with the Palestinian population living with us in the Land of Israel, the need to assure security for the State of Israel, and our attachment to the historical sites of the Land of Israel that Yasser Arafat is reaching for?

No wonder that many of us have made up our minds and prefer not to be confused with the facts. Nevertheless, it is worth considering some of the basic facts characterizing, at this juncture, the seemingly insoluble 100-year-old Israeli-Palestinian tor if you will, Jewish-Arab conflict.

A Palestinian state, in everything but name, already exists in Gaza. It has almost all of the trappings of a sovereign state, including a legislative assembly, a very large police force, intelligence services, ambassadors in most of the important capitals of the world. Its chairman-president is regularly visited by heads of state and is received by them as he travels

around the world. Its flag is raised alongside the flags of independent nations. Whether Israel agrees or not, it is only a question of time before de jure recognition will be added to the present de facto recognition.

Additional areas turned over to the control of the Palestinian Authority will become part and parcel of this Palestinian state. The transfer will be irreversible, except

settlement will eventually become Israeli citizens and be added to our voting population.

CONSIDERING these basic facts makes it easy to understand why resolution of the conflict seems so impossibly difficult and why it may not be possible to arrive at an agreement for a permanent settlement at the present time; why the present anomalous situation in

If our minimal security requirements are respected in the permanent settlement, the Palestinian state cannot be geographically contiguous

in time of war.

If our minimal security requirements are respected in the permanent settlement, the Palestinian state cannot be geographically contiguous. It would probably consist of a number of geographic regions, separated by areas under Israeli sovereignty.

The Palestinian population living in the areas of Judea and Samaria to come under Israeli sovereignty as part of the permanent

Judea and Samaria has persisted for over 30 years; why some recommend postponing negotiations on permanent settlement; and why—in their impatience to arrive at some progress—Israeli negotiators have already made three serious errors.

First, the Oslo Accords, signed by the Rabin government, constituted a perversion of Menachem Begin's concept of autonomy for the Palestinians and imposed

Yasser Arafat and the PLO on the Palestinian population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Second, the ceding of Jericho and its surrounding area to the PA punched a big hole in the Jordan Valley security border that both Likud and Labor insist Israel needs.

Third, the Hebron redeployment agreement, signed by the Netanyahu government, stifled the continued development of the Jewish community in this ancient city of such great religious and historic significance to the Jewish people.

Looking back in future years, we may well recognize this as one of the most crucial periods in the history of the Zionist movement that began in Basel 100 years ago.

We seem to have reached the limits of our demographic resources. The time has arrived to make all-important, extremely painful, and difficult choices in full cognizance of the demographic realities in the area, the continued hostility of much of the Arab world to Israel, and the essential security requirements needed to assure Israel's existence in the years to come. There may be some room for maneuver, but there is little margin for error.

The writer is a former defense and foreign minister.

'Baruch Hagever' and Sara the wife

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Last Friday's newspapers carried two items that deserve much more than the brief mention they were accorded. On their face, there is no connection between them. Actually, both raise fundamental issues involving freedom of expression in Israel.

The first is the sentence of eight months' imprisonment for Michael Ben-Horin, the editor of *Baruch Hagever*, a book praising Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. The title, *Baruch Hagever*, is itself a play on the name Baruch. On the one hand, it means "blessed be the man"; on the other, "Baruch," that is, Baruch Goldstein, "the mensch."

The second is the decision of the Ramat Gan Family Court, as reported in *The Jerusalem Post* of November 28, "to hear behind closed doors Sara Netanyahu's petition to bar her former husband Doron Neuberger from publishing a book about her. The court ruled that the dispute between the two was a family matter and not a business dispute, and thus the proceedings need not be made public." The ruling seems to involve a play on the word "family."

Ben-Horin's eight-month sentence was meted out for violations of the laws against incitement to racism, which carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment, and the post-independence anti-terrorism ordinance, promulgated after the assassination of UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, the maximum penalty for which is three months' imprisonment. The mildness of the sentence should raise eyebrows.

Ben-Horin defended Goldstein's indiscriminate mass murder of Arabs kneeling in prayer in a site

sacred both to Jews and Moslems. He called Goldstein's act "holy" and said that he should be remembered in the same breath with Moses, Saul, and David.

Ben-Horin's encomium of Goldstein included a reprint of an article by the Hebron Rabbi Ido Alba, entitled "A Discussion of the Halachot [religious legal rulings] on the Killing of a Gentile." Alba's article had been intended for dissemination among yeshiva stu-

dentful if the "fighting family" of Herut could be helped by trained social workers, in the aftermath of the recent Likud convention.

Among the other unintended consequences of the law for the direct election of the prime minister, the wife of the prime minister has become, at the very least, a public figure. At most—which is what Sara apparently would prefer—she has become our First Lady. In either case, her present status undoubtedly affects her right to privacy.

This is particularly true if, as her former husband Doron Neuberger apparently contends, her aggressive and domineering traits assure her a significant role in the decisions of her husband, the prime minister, which, as he is prepared to document on the basis of his personal experience, poses a real danger to the public interest. Moreover, Neuberger's manuscript reportedly contains interesting information on the prime minister himself. Suppose, as seems to be the case, that Sara had communicated with her ex-husband after she was married to Binyamin Netanyahu, in order to let out her feelings about the way he was treating her.

Even the prime minister would be constrained to agree that this would be a matter of legitimate public interest. He seemed to agree that this area of behavior was within the scope of the public's right to know, when he went on TV to tell it all, spurred on by the false report of the "hot cassette," purportedly documenting his marital infidelity. He wasn't exactly shouting "Hurrah for Sara!" let alone fighting to protect her privacy.

True, Sara Netanyahu has a right to privacy, which arguably applies to communications with her ex-husband. In this case, however, it appears to conflict with the public's right to know, let alone freedom of expression and of the press. A label of "family dispute" should not constitute a determination on the merits. Indeed, when such weighty constitutional issues are involved, it is questionable whether the family court is the appropriate tribunal, just as it is

These two court cases raise fundamental issues involving freedom of expression

MOVING from *Baruch Hagever* to Sara, the wife, it is perfectly understandable why Netanyahu's lawyers opted for the family court. That tribunal, a recent addition to our judicial landscape, was created to provide a discreet forum for the resolution of family discord. Aided in its deliberations by trained social workers, the court's discretion is buttressed by holding its hearings behind closed doors.

As reported in this newspaper, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge

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The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHARED INHERITANCE

Sir, — We, of the Seminary of Judaic Studies (Bet Midrash), the educational center of Masorti (Conservative) Judaism in Israel, congratulate the staff and academicians of the Bar Ilan University on their declaration of their support for the process of compromise reflected in the Neeman Commission. Who better than we, whose academic research reflects from, and on, the tradition, realize that it is possible either to battle or unite over Torah. This is a matter of human will.

It is appropriate to emphasize that the call to the representatives of non-Orthodox movements to support this process respects achievement, not hope. The stands of these movements have reflected an openness to compromise from the beginning of the process. The only crisis in the work of the commission came a short time ago, when these streams heard neither an expression nor even a hint from the Orthodox establishment of readiness for compromise and joint effort.

We offer a heartfelt call to all political and public bodies to seize upon the positive precedents and the openness of the tradition in order to rebuild the unity of the Jewish people in the future, on the basis of our shared inheritances.

RABBI BENJAMIN SEGAL
 President
 PROF. ALICE SHALVI
 Rector
 The Seminary of Judaic Studies
 Jerusalem.

ROSENBLUM RANT

Sir, — Once again, Jonathan Rosenblum just doesn't seem to get it. As he rants on about moral and ethical values at Yale and how they should be modified to meet the standards of a small group of Orthodox Jewish students in "Free the Yale Five" (November 21), he purposely fails to distinguish between the public and private institutions in America.

Unlike Israel, there is a separation of "church" and state in the United States. Yale is a private institution and may set its policies as such. They are not beholden to Rosenblum's standards, even if those standards represent the moral high ground.

What is really reprehensible in this matter is that those students understood what they were getting into before they applied and chose to attend anyway. Pretending that Yale is the only alternative for an excellent higher education in the United States is not only laughable, it is an insult to the many excellent secular and religious institutions there, including Yeshiva University.

Rosenblum also conveniently ignores the fact that there are other Orthodox Jewish students attending Yale who have somehow found a way to accommodate their lives to the private institution they have chosen to attend—which is exactly as it should be.

STUART GOLDSTEIN
 Ramat Yishai.

SEE FOR THEMSELVES

Sir, — After reading Tsvi November's letter, "Dangerous Pluralism" (November 25), I come to the conclusion that he doesn't know what he is talking about. Has he ever been to Christian religious services? Has he ever been to a Progressive/Reform religious service? He says that Reform Jews identify as American nationals, which is untrue. What about all the Russian and Latin American Jews? How does he know what goes on, if he hasn't taken the time to get to all those services in order to get a better opinion and understanding?

I can only read lack of knowledge in his letter. I wished more people "would see for themselves," and then decide what goes on during religious services.

C. HOLLAND

Haifa.

INNOCENT NEIGHBORS

Sir, — Politicians, too, are entitled to some privacy. In Tel Aviv, as well as in Jerusalem, there are plenty of places for demonstrations. Why is it necessary to demonstrate (especially at night), in front of the homes of leading politicians?

And why must their innocent neighbors suffer?

OSCAR A. MARENI
 Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 5, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported that Mr. Nahum Sokolow, The President of the Jewish Agency, deprecated the Mandatory Government's new legislature scheme and deplored haste. He feared that the suggested form of a Legislative Council would without a doubt set obstacles in a way of Zionist settlement.

50 years ago: On December 5, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported from Washington that Britain had notified the US that she expected the UN to assume responsibility for the temporary administration

of Palestine in May 1948. The withdrawal of British troops might be completed by October 1948.

There were a number of Arab attacks on Jewish settlements and traffic. The Hagana repulsed the gangs inflicting casualties. A day-long Old City attack on the Jewish Quarter was repulsed. One Arab was killed and three Jews and three Arabs wounded. Eleven members of the Hagana were Two British soldiers were disarmed in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim quarter. Seventy per cent of the planned Mobilization Fund Drive had already been raised.

Two convoys left Jerusalem for

Tel Aviv, but one turned back at Latrun where the Egged driver and one passenger were wounded. In Haifa Arabs attacked Jews, buses were stoned and *The Palestine Post* distributor David Almari was hurt.

25 years ago: On December 5, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that foreign currency controls were eased and so-called "blocked accounts" abolished. The travel allowance was raised to \$450.

Israel and Vietnam were expected to announce the establishment of regular relations.

Alexander Zivelli

POSTSCRIPTS

SINCE BIRTH, Barbara Bujacich and Frances Totaro didn't need a mirror to see what they looked like; the identical twins could just look at each other. That is, until they started aging, each in a different way.

Now, after dual face lifts, "we might look alike again," Totaro, 53, said, minutes after stitches were removed from her face in Dr. Darrick Antell's operating suite in Manhattan.

For twins who want to be identical again, surgery promises more than a youthful look: They say it's unsettling after a lifetime of looking alike to grow apart physically. "It just seems like we're closer than most other people," says Yvonne Sapp, 71, who underwent surgery with Antell with her sister, Olive Mahan. "We enjoy looking alike," adds Mahan, dressed in white stacks and a

black top, like Sapp.

They are the first two sets of identical twins that Antell, an attending physician at New York's Beth Israel Medical Center, has performed face lifts on. He plans to operate on four more sets in the coming months.

For Antell and others, adult identical twins offer a unique glimpse into the aging process.

"They have identical genes, a built-in control factor, so aging with them is a study of the environment, emotions, lifestyle," said Nancy Segal, a psychologist writing a book about identical twins.

"For instance if one twin smokes, the comparison can cast light on how a smoker ages, like comparing yourself to yourself if you didn't smoke," said Segal, a professor at California State University at Fullerton. But research was far from the four

women's minds as they peered closely at each others faces following surgery. "We're definitely more alike than we were," said Sapp.

"The sameness is a part of their identity all their lives, and it can be traumatic to see differences," Antell said.

LILLIAN ADELE Rogers Parks, a former White House maid and seamstress, died in November at the age of 100.

Parks officially served on the White House staff as a seamstress during the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower administrations, mending linens and making draperies and window curtains.

Harding and Coolidge administrations, she also took in sewing jobs and did temporary work at social functions.

Parks joined the White House staff full-time in 1929; she retired in 1960, the last year of Eisenhower's presidency.

She recounted the foibles, idiosyncrasies and day-to-day routines of the presidents and their families in a 1961 book, *My 30 Years Backstairs at the White House*. Franklin Roosevelt was a penny pincher. Herbert Hoover did not like servants to be seen or heard, but Harry Truman insisted the help be at ease, she wrote.

She said Eisenhower made no effort to remember the names of his domestic staff and had a temper that kept his wife in constant fear of inappropriate outbursts.



We're waiting for Albright's public apology

MOSHE ZAK

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has partially tried to correct the claim by members of the administration that Israel is to blame for the Arab countries' refusal to resurrect the anti-Saddam Hussein coalition in the face of the Iraqi dictator's latest provocations.

ALBRIGHT emphasized that there is no linkage between the Iraq crisis and the standstill in the Israeli-Arab negotiations. But she did leave one thread connecting the state of the negotiations to events in the region. This is what she wrote: "Let me address the issue you raised regarding linkage between the Iraq crisis and our pursuit of Arab-Israeli peace. Given the interconnected character of the Middle East, it is true that the status of the Arab-Israeli peace process affects the regional environment as a whole, and the reality we have to deal with is that when the peace

The problems of the Middle East are complex, and blaming Israel is convenient for anyone who has no idea how to solve them

UNSCOM and sanctions. And we have chosen to base our policy on that indisputable fact. We are dealing with Saddam and the regional implications of his provocations on the merits of the case and not with any connection to the Arab-Israeli negotiations."

The letter was meant to calm the Jewish leaders, who had refused to accept the baseless accusation that Israel is frustrating the US diplomatic and military campaign to prevent Iraq from accumulating weapons of mass destruction.

The prime minister of Malaysia can blame his nation's economic crisis on the attempts of international Jewish finance to overthrow his country. But an enlightened country like the US cannot use such an excuse for the Arab states' refusal to be partners in any action against Iraq. It knows that this would be a barefaced lie, even if the king of Saudi Arabia gave this as the reason for refusing to allow American planes to use airfields in his kingdom.

The Arab countries joined the Desert Storm coalition, even though at the end of 1990 the Israeli-Arab negotiations were at a complete standstill. They were only too glad to join, also for the sake of blocking Israel from becoming part of the coalition. The Saudis also distinguish between joining a war to rescue an Arab leader, the Emir of Kuwait, as happened in 1991, and an invitation to join an offensive alliance against an Arab leader, Saddam Hussein.

In the final analysis, Russia and France are also opposed to the revival of the anti-Saddam coalition. Russia is now working for the removal of the embargo against Iraq, so that Saddam can pay off his \$7 billion debt, and buy more arms. And France wants to do business with Iraq. This has no connection with construction of Har Homa or the extent of Israeli withdrawal.

Even Albright cannot defend her aides' leaks that Israel has ruined America's plans. This is why she wrote that letter.

The letter was personal, but her aides' leaks were public, and the image of Israel working against the American consensus for the containment of Saddam has already caused great damage to Israel in American public opinion. The Jewish organizations could not stand idly by in the face of these accusations.

process is stalled, our influence in the region is affected. This would be true whether or not we had an ongoing crisis with Iraq, but it has manifested itself in this crisis as well."

Here she is wrong. There is no connection whatsoever. Just as many Israelis are wrong in claiming that in the face of Iran's nuclear and chemical rearmament, we should be in a hurry to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. We should make peace with the Palestinians, not because of the race between Iraq and Iran to accumulate long-range missiles with nuclear and chemical warheads, but because we seek peace.

This is why we should remember that no agreement in the Middle East lasts long when circumstances change. The 1975 agreement between Iran and Iraq was broken by Saddam Hussein after the fall of the shah. He assumed the Iranian army had been weakened, and thought that it was an ideal opportunity to attack. That war had nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict, and neither did the invasion of Kuwait.

The problems of the Middle East are complex, and blaming Israel is convenient for anyone who has no idea how to solve them. At the end of the 1950s, there were those in the State Department who blamed Israel for America's problems in the region, until the Yemen war in the early 1960s proved them wrong.

During this same period, a senior CIA official proved that Israel's existence had caused no harm to US interests in the Middle East. Even Israel's disappearance would do nothing to improve relations between the US and the Arabs. The concept of blaming Israel had seemed to vanish, but it has sprung up again in the current Iraqi crisis. It's good that the Jewish organizations in the US were wide awake enough to protest.

But this is not enough. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is meeting Albright in Paris today. Before any discussion of the second pullback of forces or the "time out" on settlements, he must tell her that Israel is still waiting for a public statement rejecting the slanderous accusation that it has weakened the American effort to block Iraq's armament race.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.



Israel's uncivil society

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Israel is not yet the "light unto the nations" that the biblical prophets and more recent Zionists sought. Our society may not have the type of random highway killings, high school shootings, and drug-related murders that plague America, but there is a growing and unacceptable level of gratuitous violence.

The past week may not have been typical, but the number and type of violent incidents are indicative of this trend. The problem is not confined to relatively small and isolated underworld gangs, but covers a wide spectrum and is characteristic of all levels of Israeli life.

The language of threats and the atmosphere of violence is everywhere - in the family, in schools, in the labor unions, in political demonstrations (both Right and Left), in rioting by baredim, in screaming and threats between drivers on the highways (reflected in their driving and in the number of fatal "accidents"), and in the police.

This week's television news and daily newspapers featured violent demonstrations of railway workers in Dimona, sanitation workers in Tel Aviv, and angry engineers from Israel Aircraft Industries. We also saw the results of a murder-suicide of a young couple

from the "young and restless" set.

To respond effectively to this disease, we need to understand its causes - and there are many. The breakdown in the structure of society is, in part, a result of the spread of secularism, and the failure of the religious and rabbinical establishments. Governments, institutions, and systems of law were created to

control inherent tendencies toward violence that are part of the "state of nature." One of the central objectives of Judaism - perhaps the central focus - is to create such a system of law and justice to temper the yetzer hara (the evil inclination). The Ten Commandments stand at the core of this code, with the God-given prohibition on murder, and the rest of the Bible and the legal codes of the Talmud provide the rest of the foundation. Without this foundation, there is a vacuum and a return to the chaos of all against all.

The first step to ending the problem of gratuitous violence in our society is to recognize that there is a problem

control inherent tendencies toward violence that are part of the "state of nature." One of the central objectives of Judaism - perhaps the central focus - is to create such a system of law and justice to temper the yetzer hara (the evil inclination). The Ten Commandments stand at the core of this code, with the God-given prohibition on murder, and the rest of the Bible and the legal codes of the Talmud provide the rest of the foundation. Without this foundation, there is a vacuum and a return to the chaos of all against all.

in addition, Israel is a modern society, in which the family structure is breaking down. The pace and demands of this modernity have created a sense of alienation among individuals from the rest of society. Instead of mutual reliance and assistance, individuals are increasingly left to fend for themselves. Each person is mea-

sured, and measures himself, by how well he or she succeeds as an individual, rather than by the mutual achievements of a wider group. The need for each person to find fulfillment individually creates expectations that cannot be met, leading to frustration. But without the safety net of family and friends, this frustration turns into violence against society in general.

ing terrorism and fear of sudden death are a major source of additional tension, leading to lower boiling points. Under these pressures, small disagreements can quickly turn into violent confrontations.

With so many causes, it would be naive to expect a simple solution, but this does not absolve Israelis from the need to treat the disease and its impacts. The first step is to recognize the level of violence in the society and the fact that no sector is immune. As long as we continue to deny that we have a severe problem, there will be no change.

Beyond this initial acceptance, every cause and factor can be dealt with independently, in a sustained effort to change the atmosphere of the society. At the most basic level, the violence directed against women and children needs to be addressed immediately and intensively.

In many families, generations of children have been conditioned to accept violence as normal. Once they have witnessed physical abuse and the language of threats in the home, these norms are integrated into behavior in all other facets of life.

While some Israelis like to think that they are impervious to pressure, it is obvious that the tensions

of daily life have contributed to the growing violence. People need to be taught how to recognize the pressures, and how to vent it in ways that do not add to the general level of anger.

Debate and conflicts of interest will always exist, in any society. The challenge is to channel these conflicts into less violent formats, to use persuasion, and most importantly, to recognize and tolerate different views and behavioral norms. By reviving a sense of shared goals, and reducing the emphasis on individual achievement, a sense of balance can be restored.

This process is clearly not a job for the government, which is not designed for such tasks, and is itself part of the problem and not the solution. The initiative must come from within the social structure, particularly from the rabbinical leadership, which has either been silent or, in some notable cases, has contributed to the level of anger and violence in Israel. If we are unsuccessful in this task, we will never become a light for anyone.

The writer is a professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of the Arms Control Program at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

Of Israel-bashing and the Iraqi crisis

MARK A. HELLER

Although the confrontation with Iraq may not be over, the first round is, and Saddam Hussein is ahead on points. As things stand now, the Iraqi dictator has gained three weeks to disperse whatever he didn't want the United Nations Special Commission to find, the weapons of mass destruction programs are still in place, and presidential palaces and other "sovereign sites" remain off-limits to UNSCOM inspectors.

But instead of dealing with the shortcomings of the verification regime, the focus of world attention is now on the shortcomings of the sanctions regime. Iraqi authorities, with the help of CNN, are emphasizing the suffering of the Iraqi population, and discussion in the UN and elsewhere is about how to make the food distribution program more effective. The main thrust of this discussion is about the possibility of raising the quota of permitted oil exports by 50 percent, from \$2 billion to \$3 billion, every six months.

In the search for a diplomatic settlement to the crisis and for a solution to the humanitarian problem, no one wants to ask why a country one would expect to be rich in oil and which can afford land and water and which can rebuild its roads and bridges, maintain a military machine numbering almost 400,000 men, and erect dozens of lavish presidential palaces cannot afford to feed its people. Meanwhile, the military option for dealing with Saddam has been put on the back burner.

One of the most widely cited impediments to effective action has been the difficulty faced by the US in finding Arab partners for a mili-

tary coalition. This is not a rationalization for inaction; it is a serious obstacle, and not just for political reasons. Cruise missile and air attacks from US carriers in the Gulf would be more than just pinpricks, but they would not be able to support the kind of sustained air offensive - much less ground forces - needed to put an end to Saddam's capacity to make trouble.

One of the most widely cited

ly read Clausewitz from right to left and concluded that politics is the continuation of war by other means. Thus, the flurry of hints to the effect that, for Netanyahu's effect on "the Arab street," Arab governments and publics would be perfectly willing and eager to join America and gang up on Iraq. It is a little harder to understand why these claims are given any credence outside the Arab world.

Nor was broad Arab support for

to their rescue. But even then, the threat was not acknowledged until very late; three months before the invasion of Kuwait, cartoons in Kuwaiti newspapers were cheering Saddam's threat to "burn half of Israel" with binary chemicals, and two weeks after the invasion, American officials were still trying to convince the Saudis that they might be next.

Nor was broad Arab support for

As far as the current prospects for Arab involvement in an anti-Saddam coalition are concerned, Netanyahu could decide tomorrow to give up the whole of the West Bank and the whole of Jerusalem - it would not make one bit of difference

explanations for President Bill Clinton's coalition problems is the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process - code words for the trouble Israel makes for Arab leaders. This explanation is hardly surprising when it comes from sources which customarily blame Israel or the Jews for everything from the devaluation of the Malaysian ringgit to the death of Princess Diana. The Iraqi crisis provides a perfect opportunity for Israel-bashing, and the truth is that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu provides a lot of good ammunition for those so inclined.

It was therefore only to be expected that Arab leaders and other spokesmen would take a free ride on the crisis, even those who are at peace with Israel, but have apparent-

THE only way to deal seriously with such arguments is through controlled comparisons with other, analogous situations - and the obvious point of comparison is the Gulf War. In 1990-91, the US could forge a coalition with Arab partners; in 1997 it cannot. What is the difference? In 1990-91, there was also a Likud government in power, also headed by a man who could win no popularity contests either in Arab capitals or in Washington. And the peace process was not only frozen, it did not exist at all. In other words, the Israeli factor was virtually a constant.

What was different was that in 1990-91, Saddam was a direct threat to several Arab states and to the Arab system as a whole, and the US cam-

the American rescue that easy to mobilize; Jordan and the Palestinians identified with Iraq, and Syria's decision to join the coalition provoked such widespread domestic opposition (this in a country where public opposition to government policy is rather unusual) that Syrian troops, though poised to the Gulf, were very careful not to get into an actual fight with Iraqis. Finally, the American president, after receiving from British prime minister Margaret Thatcher what was delicately termed a "backbone implant," projected an air of unwavering determination to force Saddam to back down, one way or the other.

This time, the Iraqi challenge (thus far, at least) is to the world order led

by the US, and most Arabs, whatever else they may think privately about Saddam, also see him as a champion of defiance against a non-Arab force; he is either carrying their standard or at least leaving them on the sidelines (thus far, at least). And this time, Britain is led by a committed multilateralist and the American president, though undoubtedly concerned about Saddam's actions, seems far more inclined to compromise, or at least tolerate the pursuit of compromise by others, in order to avoid the use of force.

The change, therefore, lies not in the Israeli factor, but in almost everything else - except the diplomatic ambitions of Yevgeny Primakov - and especially in the fact that this time, Saddam has picked a fight with the US. The failure of most Arabs to line up with the US against another Arab state is perfectly consistent with the norms of Arab solidarity. It was the lack of Arab solidarity with Iraq in 1991 that was exceptional, and for that, Saddam himself was responsible.

In 1997, there are lots of other good, even vital reasons of self-interest for Israel to be forthcoming in its negotiations with the Palestinians. But as far as the current prospects for Arab involvement in an anti-Saddam coalition are concerned, Netanyahu could decide tomorrow to give up the whole of the West Bank and the whole of Jerusalem, and even throw in Beit Jabotinsky as a bonus - it would not make one bit of difference.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

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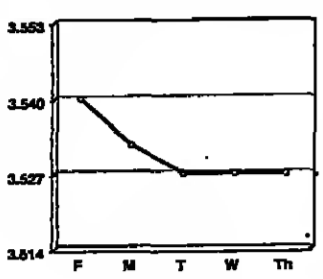
Rabbi Reuven Aberman
Chairman, Yeshivat

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Director General, Yeshivat

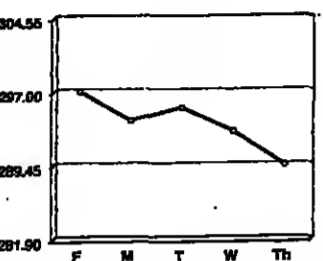
MARKETS

in brief

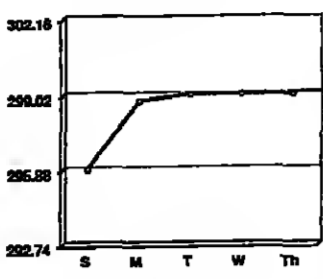
DOLLAR / SHEKEL*



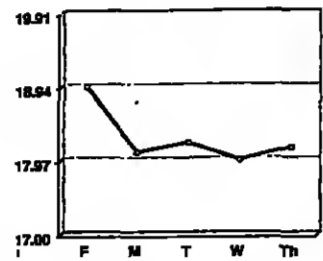
GOLD
\$ per ounce



MAOF INDEX*

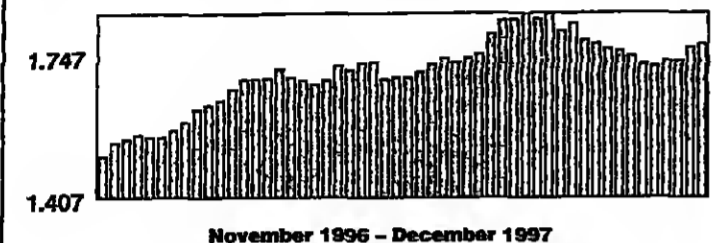


OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude

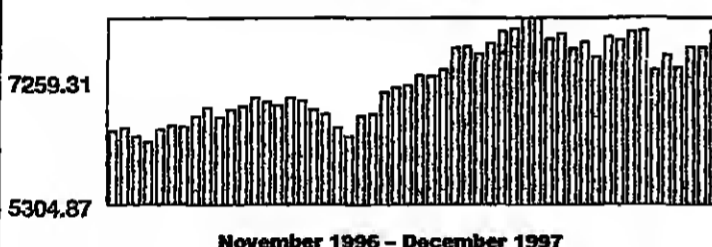


*TASE/Shekel did not trade yesterday due to strike.

DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Tadmor: Sale of control in Clal to IDB wrong

"The sale of control in Clal to IDB was wrong, and needs re-examining," Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor said yesterday. This, he said, was not what the Brodet Committee meant when it called upon Bank Hapoalim to reduce its holding in Clal. Tadmor at the same time announced that, starting in 1998, representatives of the authority would be meeting with all local companies, proposing the formation of a cartels unit, which would help prevent mergers and acquisitions that might violate antitrust laws. *Globes*

PA to build second industrial park

Israel will next year transfer \$7.5 million to the PA as the final part of its contribution as one of the donor nations, Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs Victor Harel said yesterday. Israel will inform the Paris meeting of the donors in two weeks that the money will help set up an industrial park in Judea and Samaria, with the exact location yet to be determined. *David Harris*

Jerusalem rail tender to be issued in 1998

By DAVID HARRIS

The government will publish international tenders next year to upgrade two rail lines, including the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv route, according to National Infrastructure Spokesman Ra'anan Gissin. Speaking in Tel Aviv to members of the Israel-Britain Business Council, Gissin said the contracts for the Jerusalem and Kfar Saba-Tel Aviv lines will be awarded on a BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis. This is in line with the government's policy of upgrading the rail network through a series of BOT tenders in a line-by-line framework. However, Israel Railways Spokesman Benny Naor said yesterday that the government has so far given only tacit approval to the issue of a tender for one line.

The intention, according to Gissin, is to cut journey-time on the 87-kilometer Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line by about half, to a 58-minute ride by 2000. The upgrade will require straightening some bends in the path and purchasing high-tech trains whose wheels are capable of fast speeds along curved track. The estimated project cost is \$80 million for single track improvement. The addition of a second track would cost some \$300m-\$500m, according to Gissin. He said that a second track would only be done at a later stage. The single-track work would take about 18 months to complete.

The National Infrastructure Ministry believes 2.2 million people would use the line each year. Much of the Kfar Saba-Tel Aviv line already exists, however, some tracks date back to the British Mandate era and are in desperate need of replacement. Some parts of the line are presently only used by freight trains. The route would take trains to Tel Aviv via Hod Hasharou and Petah Tikva. The \$200m upgrade would take three years to complete, at which point an estimated 12 million passengers would use the line annually. The BOTs would be offered for an initial five to 10 years, but this would be negotiable, depending on the length of time before the lines become profitable.

BOT is a relatively new approach to infrastructure development which enables direct private sector investment in large scale projects such as roads, bridges and powerplants. A private company (or consortium) agrees with a government to invest in a public infrastructure project. The company then secures financing to construct the project. The private developer then owns, maintains and manages the facility for a concessionary period and recoups their investment through charges or tolls. After the concessionary period the company transfers ownership and operation of the facility to the government or relevant state authority. The ministry believes that once

the Railways 2000 project is implemented some 40 million people will use the train each year compared to a current 6 million. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Municipality and Transport Ministry are expected to officially approve the route for the capital's first light-railway line later this month, said council spokesman Hagai Elias. The proposed route would take trains from Pisgat Ze'ev, via Jaffa Road and Herzl Boulevard, through Kiryat Menahem to Malha. No date has been set for the issue of a tender, but that is expected to take place soon after approval is granted. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has given the plan his blessing, according to Elias.



Car of the future?
Fuji Heavy Industries' engineer Toshio Takahashi (right) points yesterday to the solar panel on the rooftop of a Subaru hybrid power vehicle at Eco Japan, an exhibit of the world's latest technology for energy conservation. The exhibition opens today in Kyoto, where an international conference on global warming is taking place. *(Reuters)*

IBD economists predict Discount: Far East crisis will impact on Israel

By DAVID HARRIS

The ongoing crisis in the Far East will lead to slower growth in the business sector here during 1998, according to a report published yesterday by Israel Discount Bank economists. The loss will total at least \$300-\$400 million, the report added. This negative forecast comes after six months of relatively strong growth in the sector. During the second and third quarters this year the sector grew some 3.5 percent in annualized terms, compared to 1.7% in the previous six months and an estimated general economic growth in the economy of 2% for all of 1997.

The business sector will be influenced next year by the level of turbulence in Southeast Asia, as will growth throughout the world. In the first nine months this year exports to the region increased 17%. This growth will in all probability decline during 1998, according to the report. The likely effect on Israeli exports will be a reduction of some \$300m-\$400m. The volatile diamond industry is likely to be particularly hard hit, with a third of all exports bound for the Far East. Despite the expected slowdown in exports to the Far East, the balance of payments deficit will continue to shrink next year. The deficit should total \$3 billion in 1998, compared to \$3.6b. this year and \$5.3b. last year.

The report also criticized the methodology adopted by the Central Bureau of Statistics for calculating the housing index element of the monthly Consumer Price Index. In recent months, government and commercial economists have incorrectly predicted the CPI by as much as 0.7%. Next year's inflation will reach 8%, compared to the likely 8.5% - 9% this year, added the economists.

The Fishman group and Aurec have bought outright ownership of cable television company Idan for \$103 million, apparently in equal shares. Idan was jointly owned, in equal shares, by the Israel Corporation and Omega Communications of the US. The deal was signed on Wednesday. The Israel Corporation reported yesterday that, in exchange for its share in Idan, it will receive \$51.5 million. It is estimated that the Israel Corporation will post a \$25 million capital gain from the deal. The deal requires approval from Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor and the Cable Television Council. Eliczer Fishman holds 8 percent of the equity in cable television company Gvanim; he is also a shareholder in *Globes* and *Yedioth Aharonot*. Aurec holds 70% of cable television company Golden Channels. Through Montin Holdings (30%) and Golde Channels (70%), the Fishman group is also a partner in cable television company Telem. Idan is the smallest of the cable television companies. It has about 107,000 subscribers, 10% of the total number of cable television subscribers in Israel. Idan broadcasts in Acre, Nahariya, Ness Ziona, Rehovot, and Beersheba and the south (not including Eilat). Idan ended 1996 with a NIS 24m profit. In the period January to September 1997, it made a profit of NIS 17.2m, after its third-quarter profit fell considerably, to NIS 2.9m, compared with NIS 6.3m in the corresponding quarter last year. *(Globes)*

Reuters to return £1.5b. to shareholders

By DAVID CALLAWAY

Reuters Holdings Plc, the world's largest financial information provider, said it would return 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.52 billion) to shareholders as it focuses on current businesses rather than diversifying. Reuters shareholders will receive 13 new ordinary shares plus 13.60 pounds for every 15 existing shares they hold. Holders of American Depository Receipts will receive 13 new ADRs plus the dollar equivalent of 81.60 pounds (about \$137) for every 15 ADRs held. Reuters said it still plans to buy back up to 200 million pounds of shares by the end of 1998. The cash distribution puts Reuters, which had net cash of 1.12 billion pounds at the end of

June, in a net debt position for the first time since 1981, and makes it unlikely it will bid for Dow Jones Markets. Dow Jones & Co. has put its financial information unit up for sale, the *New York Times* reported last month. "If you can't find areas to invest in within the business and can only get a 7.5 percent yield (on cash), you might as well hand the cash back to shareholders," said Anthony de Laranaga, an analyst at Panmure Gordon. "It does not make a major investment look imminent, but it doesn't preclude it."

Reuters' announcement follows last year's abandoned plan to return 613 million pounds to shareholders through a bonus issue of special dividend shares. The company withdrew that plan amid concern about changes to UK taxes on corporate dividends that were being proposed by the former Conservative government. Reuters shares rose as much as 36.5 pence, or 5.4%, to a six-week high of 716p, and recently traded at 710.5p, up 31p for the day. "A focused approach remains essential to success," Reuters said

in a statement. "The company believes growth prospects in (its) markets are good, and that it retains sufficient access to funds to allow it to maintain necessary levels of investment, and to increase them if the continuing rapid pace of technological development so demands." Under the plan, Reuters will form a new holding company, called Reuters Group Plc, which will acquire Reuters Holdings Plc. Reuters said it expects its revenue growth to continue to be around the 8% level on a local-currency basis that it reported for the first nine months of the year. Reuters' nine-month sales declined to 2.1 billion pounds from 2.2 billion pounds in the year-earlier period. The company said it would have risen 8% if not for the strong pound. Reuters said it expects to take a 30 million-pound charge against its 1997 earnings for costs relating to the return of cash to shareholders. The company said it intends to return its capital to shareholders and have its new shares listed by February 1998. *(Bloomberg)*

Fishman, Aurec buy Idan for \$103m

The Fishman group and Aurec have bought outright ownership of cable television company Idan for \$103 million, apparently in equal shares. Idan was jointly owned, in equal shares, by the Israel Corporation and Omega Communications of the US. The deal was signed on Wednesday. The Israel Corporation reported yesterday that, in exchange for its share in Idan, it will receive \$51.5 million. It is estimated that the Israel Corporation will post a \$25 million capital gain from the deal. The deal requires approval from Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor and the Cable Television Council. Eliczer Fishman holds 8 percent of the equity in cable television company Gvanim; he is also a shareholder in *Globes* and *Yedioth Aharonot*. Aurec holds 70% of cable television company Golden Channels. Through Montin Holdings (30%) and Golde Channels (70%), the Fishman group is also a partner in cable television company Telem. Idan is the smallest of the cable television companies. It has about 107,000 subscribers, 10% of the total number of cable television subscribers in Israel. Idan broadcasts in Acre, Nahariya, Ness Ziona, Rehovot, and Beersheba and the south (not including Eilat). Idan ended 1996 with a NIS 24m profit. In the period January to September 1997, it made a profit of NIS 17.2m, after its third-quarter profit fell considerably, to NIS 2.9m, compared with NIS 6.3m in the corresponding quarter last year. *(Globes)*

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مكتبة القدس

Singer to shut plants and fire 6,000 workers

By ANDREW GALVIN and GREG BARTALOS

Singer Co. named a new chief executive and said it will close plants and fire almost 6,000 workers, or 28 percent of its workforce, in a restructuring aimed at cutting manufacturing costs.

The largest maker of sewing machines named Stephen H. Goodman, 53, as its new CEO, replacing Fikhar Ahmed, who will retire. Goodman is a managing director in corporate strategy at Bankers Trust New York Corp. Prior to joining Bankers Trust in 1986, he was an executive at Singer.

Hong Kong-based Singer's shares have fallen 54% since July 14 as Southeast Asia's economic crisis cut sales and production at its sewing-machine factories. Third-quarter net income fell to \$800,000, or 2 cents a share, from \$2.1 million, or 39 cents, a year earlier. The company also had an unexpected loss in last year's fourth quarter.

"Singer's board has appointed Steve Goodman chief executive officer because we are not satisfied with Singer's performance and we are unhappy with its share price," said

James H. Ting, Singer's chairman, in a statement. "Mr. Goodman's first priority is to enhance shareholder value."

Singer estimates that the restructuring, which will shift sewing-machine manufacturing to lower-cost locations, will reduce its costs by \$104 million annually after three years. The plan includes the firing of 5,968 workers, including 5,531 in manufacturing and 437 in marketing. It didn't say how many plants will be closed or where they are located.

"Dramatically lowering manufacturing costs is clearly the first step in revitalizing Singer and making the company more competitive," Goodman said in a statement. "The cost reductions will begin contributing to earnings in 1998, although their full impact will not be realized immediately."

Singer said it will take a fourth-quarter charge of \$186 million for the costs of the restructuring, primarily severance payments. Goodman said Singer expects to report 1997 net income of \$21 million, or 41 cents a share, before the charge. That indicates an expected fourth-quarter loss before the charge of about \$9.7 million, or 19 cents a share.

It reported net income of \$30.7 million, or 60 cents a share, in the first nine months of the year. Singer expects a 1997 loss of \$160 million after the charge, Goodman said. It earned \$29 million, or 56 cents a share, last year.

Singer will integrate its sewing-machine production operations with those of Germany's G.M. Pfaff AG. Singer said last month it would pay \$157.5 million to buy an 80.5% stake in Pfaff from Hong Kong-based Semi-Tech (Global) Ltd.

Singer said it will fund the restructuring and \$76 million in new investments through sales of the plants that are to be shut. Those sales are expected to generate \$220 million in cash proceeds after taxes, the company said.

Goodman will be based in New York. He was treasurer and senior director of mergers and acquisitions at Singer until 1986. In 1986, Goodman helped structure a realignment of Singer that included spinning off its sewing-related businesses into a new public company, the predecessor to the present company. He has degrees from Cornell University and Yale University.

Singer has operations in 140 countries. (Bloomberg)



Meaty Issue

A London butcher prepares meat in his shop yesterday. The British government imposed a ban on the sale of all cuts of beef on the bone due to fears over BSE, also known as 'mad cow disease.'

IMF official urges Japan to strengthen financial system

By KEIKO KAMBARA and MAYUMI OTSUMA

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, urged Japan to take steps to restore confidence in its financial industry, a senior Japanese Finance Ministry official said.

Camdessus, meeting with Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuizuka in Tokyo a day after negotiating a \$55 billion bailout of the Korean financial system, suggested Japan use public funds to strengthen its Deposit Insurance Corp.

Camdessus also suggested Japan bolster capital at its financial institutions to avoid a shortage of funds for lending, and that financial institutions increase disclosure, the Japanese official said.

Mitsuizuka said Japan's parliament is debating

legislation to allow the semi-public Deposit Insurance Corp. to provide money to cash-strapped banks that agree to merge. Currently, the corporation can only pay for writing off losses left by collapsed financial institutions, or to support healthy banks that absorb collapsed institutions.

The legislation is aimed at encouraging mergers of weak banks and reducing failures, politicians and Finance Ministry officials have said. The corporation is funded by premiums paid by banks.

Mitsuizuka said he would consider measures, including the use of public funds, to strengthen Japan's financial system, following passage of the legislation.

Camdessus also said that changes in Japan's corporate, land and securities transaction taxes are desirable. (Bloomberg)

Report: Male life expectancy lower in parts of US than 3rd world nations

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — The differences in Americans' life expectancy is vast — the sort found between poverty-ridden Sierra Leone and wealthy Japan — not the type predicted within the United States, a report said.

Men in a swath of South Dakota as well as in the eastern cities of Baltimore and Washington live about as long as men in such developing countries as India and Bolivia, a Harvard scientist told a meeting organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday.

Emphasizing stark differences within the United States, Dr. Christopher Murray also said women in some counties die around age 83, while men in a south-central portion of South Dakota that contains two Indian reservations have life expectancies of only 61 years.

Also, male native Indians living in the worst South Dakota counties had a life expectancy of just 56.5 years and black men living in the nation's capital 57.9 years, as low as in parts of Africa. Yet male Asians living in affluent counties in New York and Massachusetts

lived to be 89.5, Asian women into their mid-90s.

"That's an absolutely staggering range," Murray said.

What's going on in the low-life-expectancy counties "is obviously the \$64,000 question."

"The size of the discrepancy was the big surprise," agreed Dr. James Marks, director of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention. "The findings have tremendous implications." He said the CDC will study how to improve these counties.

Murray is performing a massive study of US disease trends.

His first results are snapshots of life expectancies in different counties and in some county-sized cities.

The 10 unhealthiest areas were in inner cities and the South and on Indian reservations.

The swath in South Dakota, for instance, encompasses two Sioux reservations that have reported large problems with diabetes and alcoholism. Shannon County, the poorest county on the list, has a median income of \$11,000 — almost \$20,000 under the national median. And 41 percent of residents receive welfare.

Murray found that high-income whites lived only about two years longer than poor whites. Income made a little more difference among blacks. But among Indians, the richest could hit age 90 while the poorest died around 65, Murray said.

Still, income isn't the only culprit, Murray said.

"Why does the United States have a bigger spread than any other high-income country?" asked Murray, known for his intricate global studies of disease rates. "Even if you took all of Europe, you would not find this variation."

Murray is studying more than death: Chronic diseases lower Americans' quality of life for years before they die. Heart disease, depression, car crashes, HIV and diabetes are the nation's top disabilities, Murray said. His preliminary results suggest that Americans may suffer more from these diseases than residents of other high-income countries.

And more Americans will suffer as the elderly population surges in the next few years, meaning improving unhealthy counties must happen quickly, Marks said.

"The immediacy and the size of the burden is just starting to hit home to people," he said.

Allianz denies hostile Generali bid report

By RENEE S. COFFEY and YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

Allianz AG, Germany's largest insurer, isn't making a hostile takeover bid for control of Assicurazioni Generali SpA, Italy's largest insurer, according to a person familiar with Allianz's plans.

Both Allianz and Generali declined to comment on an unattributed Italian newspaper report that said Allianz was preparing to spend up to \$13.8 billion to buy a 40% to 50% stake in Generali.

Allianz spokesman Christopher Worthley said he couldn't "confirm or deny" the report in *La Repubblica*, which cited unnamed "international sources."

A person familiar with Allianz's plans, who asked not to be identified, said it wasn't planning to bid for Generali.

Giovanni Perissinotto, a Generali spokesman, said: "At the moment, these are just rumors and we have no comment to make."

Generali's board is scheduled to meet today.

Generali owns Migdal Insurance.

Allianz already controls Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà SpA, or RAS, Italy's second-largest insurer by premium income. An Allianz bid for Generali would be sure to raise antitrust issues in Italy, one fund manager said.

"This will be very difficult. Generali is a nerve point of Italian finance. If Allianz did something like that, it would have very serious antitrust problems and most probably would have to sell RAS," said Umberto Orsenigo at Epafund SpA in Milan.

La Repubblica, citing an Italian economics newsletter, said Allianz's bid was motivated by its wish to acquire French insurer Assurances Generales de France SA, or AGF, for which both Allianz and Generali are bidding. (Bloomberg)

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

Symbol	Price	Change
Am Israel Paper Mills	44.75	0
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
Bank Leumi K	7.50	0
Bank Leumi L	7.50	0
Bank Leumi M	7.50	0
Bank Leumi N	7.50	0
Bank Leumi O	7.50	0
Bank Leumi P	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Q	7.50	0
Bank Leumi R	7.50	0
Bank Leumi S	7.50	0
Bank Leumi T	7.50	0
Bank Leumi U	7.50	0
Bank Leumi V	7.50	0
Bank Leumi W	7.50	0
Bank Leumi X	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Y	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

AMEX

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
Bank Leumi K	7.50	0
Bank Leumi L	7.50	0
Bank Leumi M	7.50	0
Bank Leumi N	7.50	0
Bank Leumi O	7.50	0
Bank Leumi P	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Q	7.50	0
Bank Leumi R	7.50	0
Bank Leumi S	7.50	0
Bank Leumi T	7.50	0
Bank Leumi U	7.50	0
Bank Leumi V	7.50	0
Bank Leumi W	7.50	0
Bank Leumi X	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Y	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

NASDAQ

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
Bank Leumi K	7.50	0
Bank Leumi L	7.50	0
Bank Leumi M	7.50	0
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Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

NYSE

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
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Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

LONDON

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
Bank Leumi K	7.50	0
Bank Leumi L	7.50	0
Bank Leumi M	7.50	0
Bank Leumi N	7.50	0
Bank Leumi O	7.50	0
Bank Leumi P	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Q	7.50	0
Bank Leumi R	7.50	0
Bank Leumi S	7.50	0
Bank Leumi T	7.50	0
Bank Leumi U	7.50	0
Bank Leumi V	7.50	0
Bank Leumi W	7.50	0
Bank Leumi X	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Y	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
Bank Leumi J	7.50	0
Bank Leumi K	7.50	0
Bank Leumi L	7.50	0
Bank Leumi M	7.50	0
Bank Leumi N	7.50	0
Bank Leumi O	7.50	0
Bank Leumi P	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Q	7.50	0
Bank Leumi R	7.50	0
Bank Leumi S	7.50	0
Bank Leumi T	7.50	0
Bank Leumi U	7.50	0
Bank Leumi V	7.50	0
Bank Leumi W	7.50	0
Bank Leumi X	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Y	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

NEW YORK

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
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Bank Leumi N	7.50	0
Bank Leumi O	7.50	0
Bank Leumi P	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Q	7.50	0
Bank Leumi R	7.50	0
Bank Leumi S	7.50	0
Bank Leumi T	7.50	0
Bank Leumi U	7.50	0
Bank Leumi V	7.50	0
Bank Leumi W	7.50	0
Bank Leumi X	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Y	7.50	0
Bank Leumi Z	7.50	0

LAST CHANGE

Symbol	Price	Change
Amrad	10.00	0
Bank Leumi	8.00	0
Bank Leumi A	7.50	0
Bank Leumi B	7.50	0
Bank Leumi C	7.50	0
Bank Leumi D	7.50	0
Bank Leumi E	7.50	0
Bank Leumi F	7.50	0
Bank Leumi G	7.50	0
Bank Leumi H	7.50	0
Bank Leumi I	7.50	0
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December 5, 1997

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NEWS in FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, December 5, 1997

From suburban dream to battleground

The fistfights last week between residents of Pardess Hanna were the latest stage in a turf war that makes some believe that 'partition' is the only solution to the secular-religious conflict, Dan Izenberg reports



The ongoing confrontations in Neveh Rotem finally erupted into a fist-swinging brawl last week, when the haredim and their neighborhood supporters traded blows with secular residents.

Neveh Rotem, a small development of two-story, semi-detached private homes, green lawns and bricked sidewalks tucked away in a corner of Pardess Hanna, is yesterday's secular Israeli dream turned into today's nightmare.

Some 80 secular families who thought they had found their corner of paradise as they moved into Neveh Rotem over the past nine months, have suddenly found themselves in a turf war with hardi Rabbi Raphael Bublil and his followers in the Even Hahaim organization.

"We wanted our own house at a reasonable price. Where else could we have found this?" said Neveh Rotem resident Nava Ksas Neoran.

"Everyone is mongaged up to their ears. They bought their homes with the sweat of their brow. Most are young couples. For three years, they dreamed of the day they would actually live here. Finally, they moved in and began cultivating their gardens. And now ... this."

"This" is what the residents regard as Bublil's attempts to force them to sell out and leave. The residents are angry, and have banded together to fight.

OF COURSE, Bublil, who was raised in Pardess Hanna and married the daughter of the village's former chief rabbi, sees things differently. Eleven years ago, he established a small kollel, called Even Hahaim, in the Remez quarter, a poor, Sephardi neighborhood of small houses on the edge of Pardess Hanna. Later he opened a small Talmud Torah primary school.

Geographically, Neveh Rotem is a continuation of Remez. A neighborhood street separates the southern edge of Remez from the northern edge of Neveh Rotem, which is surrounded on its three other sides by open fields and orchards. Bublil does not distinguish between the two areas.

"Neveh Rotem isn't a neighborhood," he said. "It's a location within Remez." And Remez, as he sees it, "is a neighborhood of traditional Jews. From the beginning of our work here, we tried to rehabilitate adolescents involved in crime and drugs. And we will continue our efforts to bring back those who have strayed from the faith, because this is a religious neighborhood."

Pardess Hanna local council head Shalom Barzilai supports Bublil's view that Neveh Rotem is not a separate entity. "Neveh Rotem is in the southwest part of Remez," he said. "It was only the building contractor who decided to call the development by a different name."

Borders and semantics are important in this dispute, because if Neveh Rotem is part of Remez, then its residents are the newcomers on a block which has, over the years, and due to its own particular demographic makeup, developed its own set of customs and code of existence.

That's precisely the way Barzilai sees it. "Remez is a distressed neighborhood," he said. "They ought to know where they bought their homes. They didn't buy in Caesarea or Savyon."

The residents of Neveh Rotem, on the other hand, see themselves as belonging to a self-contained, homogeneous neighborhood of like-minded individuals sharing their own values and customs within the larger, compatible framework of Pardess Hanna.

But the situation is even more complicated than that. Whatever motivations may drive Bublil privately, he is affiliated with Shas, which perceives its key mission as one of "redeeming" the Sephardi population which has allegedly been corrupted and exploited by the Ashkenazi, secular elite ever since immigrating to Israel. That is why Bublil believes that the Remez neighborhood, and those who live in it, "belong" to him.

"This neighborhood is in need of those who will help bring it back to Judaism," he explained.

WHEN BUBLIL and the residents of Neveh Rotem look at their neighbors in Remez, they see two different entities. The residents of Neveh Rotem perceive essentially modern Israelis, more or less like themselves. They may or may not mix with them, but they have no problem living in proximity to them. And that is what they thought when they decided to buy into Neveh Rotem.

What they did not know was that an ambitious and dynamic haredi rabbi had serious intentions of turning these modern-looking Israelis into haredim or as close to haredim as possible. Bublil unilaterally regards the residents of Remez as strictly Orthodox Jews in potential, strictly Orthodox Jews in fact. To accomplish this, he wants to import as many "real" haredim as possible into the area, to establish a strong nucleus which will help, as his followers put it, "raise the level" of the indigenous population.

One of these "real" haredim is Nathan Weiss, a member of Bublil's kollel and a haredi troublemaker.

"Where I lived, the spiritual situation was already very high," said Weiss. "I came here to strengthen the local population. The Remez neighborhood was known as a drug neighborhood. Rabbi Bublil extricated the boys here from drugs."

"I came from Bnei Brak. Afterwards, I was in Yeroham and now in Pardess Hanna. My job is to be an activist. "Let's take drugs, for example. As soon as there is a kollel, it automatically attracts addicts. They are drawn by the spiritual way because it can solve so many problems. When a man is bored, he can easily get caught up in crime or drugs. This way, he is busy all the time."

TO CREATE as much of a critical mass of haredim as possible,

Bublil set his sights on four empty plots of land in, or adjacent to, Remez. Two of the plots, according to existing town planning schemes, were designated for a total of 150 homes, a third for commercial purposes and the fourth for an unspecified public institution.

The first of the two housing plots eventually became Neveh Rotem. Bublil had wanted to market these homes and began negotiating with Shikun Ovdim, which had first contractual rights, and later with Tel Aviv contractor Mario-Leznik, which eventually built the project. According to Bublil, Mario-Leznik abruptly decided to sell on the

'We will continue our efforts to bring back those who have strayed from the faith, because this is a religious neighborhood'

- Rabbi Bublil

open market in the middle of negotiations with him.

But Bublil succeeded in signing a contract with Shikun Ovdim, giving him first chance at finding 40 purchasers for the homes in the second plot of land, located inside Remez. Shikun Ovdim also gave Bublil the right to develop the third site, a 700-square-meter plot offering some 350 square meters of commercial floor space.

The linchpin of Bublil's dream is the plot of land designated for a public institution. Upon it, Bublil has declared, he hopes to build an educational complex that would include day creches, kindergartens, separate girls' and boys' primary schools, a high school and library. This would be the drawing card for the dozens of haredi families he wants to attract.

IN AUGUST, the city engineer of Pardess Hanna, in a handwritten message, informed Bublil that the city was giving him the plot, for the specific purpose of building a primary school.

According to Yaki Levinz, a member of the local council and chairman of the town's education department, Bublil's earlier requests for the land had been rejected on the grounds that he did not have enough children to warrant a school.

"We checked the school and found he had about 12 children," said Levinz.

But Bublil persisted. After years of operating independently, he linked up with Shas, which in June submitted a request to Barzilai on the letterhead of Ma'ayan Hahinuch Hatorani (Shas's educational system). This time, the request was granted.

Although Shas made it clear that Bublil wanted to build a large regional educational center with many additional functions for a population which did not yet exist, Barzilai defended his decision to allocate the land to Bublil on the grounds that it was needed for primary education for the children of Remez.

In September, even though the land still belonged to the Israel Lands Administration and Bublil had not received permission to put up structures on the site, he brought in three mobile homes - an illegal act - and moved the children in.

He also put up a sign declaring: "Here on this site, with God's help, we will build an educational complex."

In the meantime, he also began to look for the 40 families who would purchase the homes in the Remez plot. Bublil was in a rush, because his contract with Shikun Ovdim expires this month, according to Ya'acov Duvdevani, head of Tel Aviv operations for Shikun Ovdim.

For the past few weeks, Bublil has been busily haredi families from all over the country to Neveh Rotem to see the site, trying to persuade them to buy.

He also began renting homes from absentee owners in Neveh

Rotem. In one of them, he set up a real-estate office. The sign there also announces that applicants may register their children for the "day creches and kindergartens, the boys' primary school, the girls' primary school, the yeshiva and the kollel."

On the small commercial plot, Bublil erected a sign saying that a "haredi shopping mall" would be erected on the site.

SO FAR, Bublil has rented 18 homes from their absentee secular owners in Neveh Rotem and managed to rent eight of them to haredi families, according to Ksas Neoran. In September, he moved

'It took a long time before people here were ready to fight back. We didn't want anyone to think we were anti-religious'

- Nava Ksas Neoran

the kollel and synagogue from Remez into one of the homes. That move launched a street conflict between the rabbi and his followers and the residents of Neveh Rotem.

"We brought the Torah scroll into the synagogue," recalled Weiss. "One of the women saw us and started screaming. All the neighbors came running with their dogs. We were dancing in a circle and they unleashed the dogs to scare us."

Weiss and the other kollel students also accused the secular residents of threatening to kill them or feed their children pork.

"They told us they prefer to have members of the Islamic Jihad here rather than haredi Jews," said Bublil.

Ksas Neoran said it was beneath her dignity to reply to these accusations. "We are so law-abiding

and so moral that we don't even know how to cope with these people," she said. "It took a long time before people here were ready to fight back. We're all bleeding hearts. We didn't want anyone to think we were anti-religious."

The secular residents regard the opening of the kollel inside Neveh Rotem as a deliberate provocation. It was done without a permit - Bublil's second blatantly illegal move.

"If my neighbor, even before we start talking, starts up with illegal actions, I don't care who he is," said Michael Rafelson, another resident. "I don't want such a neighbor."

"I was once talking to one of the haredim and brought out my book on the town planning laws. He said 'that book is for you, not for us. We have a different law.'"

The next serious incident took place on Succot, when the members of Even Hahaim built a large succa and celebrated the holiday with loud singing into the night.

That incident launched the war of the loudspeakers. The secular residents set up a protest site every Saturday morning, where they welcomed out-of-town supporters and aimed their music-blasting loudspeakers at Bublil's synagogue during prayers.

"A synagogue is not meant to be located in a private house in the middle of the neighborhood," said Ksas Neoran. "If he puts it there, we will do everything we can to disturb him. What he has done bothers us terribly and the only thing we can do is strike at his soft underbelly."

Recently, Bublil counter-attacked, blasting the secular residents with the sermons of Bnei Brak preacher Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak.

One of the things that angered the secular residents most of all were the signs put up by the haredim calling on the residents of Neveh Rotem to dress modestly.

"They tell us: 'We're here. Be considerate of our feelings,'" said Ksas Neoran. "As far as I'm concerned, that is lack of consideration for our feelings."

But Bublil's most nefarious action - because it is the most threatening - is, according to Ksas Neoran, his bussing of haredi families into Neveh Rotem to show them "their" new neighborhood.

The secular residents regard these tours as part of his program to drive the secular residents out.

In response, they put up signs on their houses, declaring that Neveh Rotem is a secular neighborhood, so that Bublil's visitors would be fully aware of where they were. Now, said Ksas Neoran, Bublil brings the families at dusk, when it is hard to see the signs.

THE ONGOING confrontations finally erupted into a fist-swinging brawl last week, when the haredim and their Remez supporters traded blows with secular residents. Barzilai and Levinz said they fear the dispute will eventually erupt into bloodshed.

To back up his claim that the secular residents are to blame for the trouble, Bublil argues that he lived among the secular residents of Remez for many years.

"Our kollel was located on the most dangerous street in Remez from the point of view of drugs and crime. Yet we all got along and loved each other. We love every Jew because he's a Jew. Even if he doesn't observe the commandments, he is my brother."

Bublil added that he does not

want to impose his will on anyone by force. "All we ask is that they be considerate of our feelings," he said.

But Bublil indicated that "consideration," he meant secular Jews should not violate religious law - for example, Shabbat laws in public.

"One taxi driver told me he was a Jew who respected everyone and therefore he would not turn on the radio or have a barbecue outside," said Bublil. "That is the way it should be and that is the right way. Without coercion."

The secular residents are not convinced. They believe that they are putting up a last-ditch stand for

'Just like you don't smoke cigarettes in a gas station, we must not mix secular and haredi Jews'

- Yaki Levinz

their way of life and their homes. "They want to establish a haredi neighborhood in the only entrance and exit we have from our neighborhood," said Ksas Neoran. "If he succeeds, he will block off our neighborhood, close us off and, in effect, force us to leave. As soon as they are in the majority, they will take control and tell us how to dress and when we can move."

At the moment, two developments are in the offing which might have a decisive effect on the dispute.

The local council recently passed a resolution rescinding the decision to give Bublil the land for a public institution. Bublil has appealed the ruling and the case is in court. If Bublil is unable to build his educational complex, it is unlikely that he will be able to create the haredi nucleus he wants.

Meanwhile, his contract with Shikun Ovdim for the 40 apartments is almost up. Shikun Ovdim's Duvdevani said there is no sign Bublil has found 40 purchasers. If he doesn't, Shikun Ovdim will put the units back on the open market, Duvdevani said.

ALTHOUGH SOME of Barzilai's actions in connection with the dispute are questionable, the local council head said that he was acting out of a profound social belief.

"The problem can only be solved through the goodwill of both sides and a genuine desire to live together," he said. "This is a battle based on the false view that the haredim should live in ghettos. I can't tell anyone where to live. I can seek compromise and conciliation but I can't expel anyone. I was brought up to believe that the people of Israel should live together in peace."

Local council member Levinz, who at first voted to grant Bublil the school, then led the fight to revoke the decision, said he changed his mind after witnessing the actions of the haredim in Neveh Rotem and after coming to the conclusion that they want to "conquer" the new neighborhood.

"When I voted for the school, I didn't understand that Bublil would use the move against us," he said. "We didn't understand that the move could lead to bloodshed. Just like you don't smoke cigarettes in a gas station, we must not mix secular and haredi Jews."

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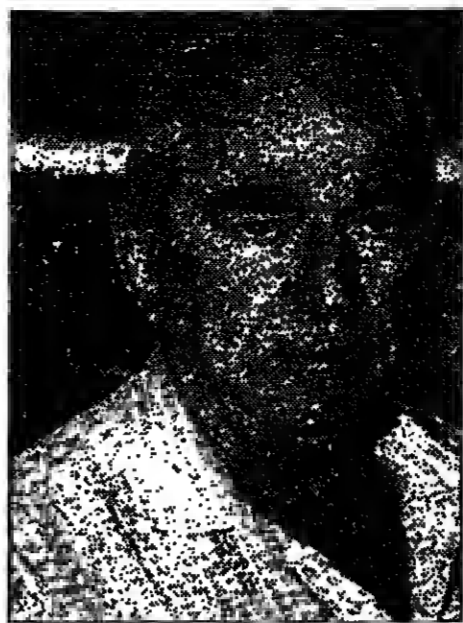
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Labor MK Avi Yehzekel

Why are they off the hook?

Last week's acquittal of Labor MK Avi Yehzekel on charges that he misused Histadrut funds was, for state prosecutors, one more drop of the Chinese water torture that they have endured for the last two years. One after another, public officials indicted for white-collar crimes, usually corruption-related, are being found not guilty in court.

The list of Yehzekel's recent, prominent predecessors is long: Former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Diniz; Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert; Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman; Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan; Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau; former Haifa mayor Arye Gurek; former Petah Tikva mayor Giora Lev; former Eilat mayor Rafi Hochman; former Northern District police commander Ya'acov Ganot. And if David Appel, a contractor and hugely powerful political wheeler-dealer, can be considered a public figure — him too.

"This is not good for the Jews," says attorney Michael Partem, deputy chairman of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, which initiates frequent court actions against suspected corrupt officials.

What seems to be overlooked these days, though, is that list of politicians and public figures who have been convicted of white-collar crimes over the last couple of years is also long: former Beit Sheshem mayor Shalom Fedids; former

That's what some critics are asking. But others questions why these public officials were ever brought to court in the first place. MK Avi Yehzekel's acquittal last week has revived the debate, as Larry Derfner reports

Ramat Gan mayor Uri Amit; current Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar; former Ramat Hasharon mayor Moshe Verbin; former Rishon LeZion mayor Meir Nitzan; former Gedera mayor Shalom Cohen; and Hapoel Sports Organization chairman Yoram Oberkowitz.

The most recent conviction was that of former MK Yossi Vanunu on corruption charges stemming from his tenure as local council head of Kiryat Malachi. In the past, the conviction of a politician received more public and media attention than an acquittal. Now, popular perceptions, as reflected in media coverage, have changed to an "absurd" extent, says legal commentator Moshe Negbi. Vanunu's conviction was quickly noted and forgotten, Negbi says, while every acquittal is treated to the spotlight.

If the public once assumed that an indicted politician was probably guilty, today many Israelis see

such an indictment as a badge of honor. In their view, the official will no doubt be found innocent, and in the meantime he is just one more victim of the State Attorney's Office's incompetence, arrogance, and/or nefarious politically-motivated schemes.

This attitude, however, is not only grossly mistaken and destructive, says Negbi, but is being "orchestrated" by indicted public officials and their allies, with the aid of high-priced PR campaigns.

"When people can say these sorts of things, knowing that it will not hurt their standing, it only shows how public norms have eroded in Israel," says Negbi.

Dror Hoter-Yishai, chairman of the Israel Bar Association, who is himself under indictment for tax evasion — says exactly these sorts of things. Neeman and Eitan were indicted, he claims, because the state legal establishment wanted to

quash their respective appointments as minister of justice and minister of internal security.

Hoter-Yishai maintains that his own indictment is utterly baseless, and was served against him as punishment for his harsh criticisms of Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, and as an attempt to remove him from the leadership of the Bar Association.

As for the string of acquittals, Hoter-Yishai says: "I have no doubt that if God forbid, one of the arms of the defense establishment suffered such a series of failures, there would be a demand for a commission of inquiry. Unfortunately, the [State Attorney's Office's] procedures have not been examined by an outside, neutral authority."

State Attorney Edna Arbel, Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and his predecessor, Michael Ben-Yair dismiss all accusations that they entertained any political or non-legal considerations in bringing indictments against public officials.

Partem of the Movement for Quality Government points out that in a number of these cases, the court decision noted that there had been sufficient evidence to warrant an indictment. He says he knows of no public figure who has been indicted for political reasons, although, in his view, there have been public officials who have escaped indictment because of such considerations.

Still, so many public officials have been exonerated to court lately that the most perplexing question of all is: Why?

Partem says that among those in the legal profession, "There is a general feeling that the courts may be easing up a little on their standards [for acquittal]. It may be that the pendulum is swinging back — that some judges feel the courts were too severe in the past on white-collar crime and malfeasance by public officials, and that now they're leaning towards the attitude that the public official is also a human being who deserves more of a benefit of the doubt."

Partem and Negbi also point out that politicians and public figures are often wealthy and can hire the best lawyers and investigators, who can put more time and energy into a case than can the State Attorney's Office's overworked prosecutors. The problem is not that the state prosecutors are less able than their adversaries, Negbi stresses, rather that they lack the defense's frequently extravagant resources with which to mount a case.

Hoter-Yishai, however, insists that the root of the problem is that state prosecutors have become "arrogant," and are attempting to use the courts to make laws, which is the sole legitimate province of the Knesset. "Over the years the State Attorney's Office has attempted to establish new norms by pushing the courts towards passing judgment in areas which have more to do with values [pertaining to the conduct of public officials] than with law," he charges.

Yet another pressing question raised by the acquittals is what effect they are having on efforts of the State Attorney's Office to bring suspected corrupt officials to trial.

Arbel insists they are having no effect. "We cannot make decisions according to the [public] mood of the hour. In principle we will not change our policy. When we become convinced that there is a public interest or there is sufficient evidence, we will present an indictment," she declared recently.

However, after Yehzekel's acquittal, prosecutors were quoted off-the-record as saying that in the future they will be reluctant to issue indictments of public figures.

Negbi says he fears that such remarks are nearer the mark than Arbel's. State prosecutors now are under tremendous "psychological pressure," he says, and seem intimidated by the possibility of losing another high-profile case.

This pressure has already taken effect, he continues. The State



Former Petah Tikva mayor Giora Lev



Former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Diniz



Former Eilat Mayor Rafi Hochman

Attorney's Office has declined to appeal a number of acquittals of public figures to higher courts. The Magistrate's Court, the lowest Israeli court, whose decisions can be appealed to the District Court and then to the High Court of Justice, has in many cases "become the final arbiter of the norms pertaining to public figures in Israel," Negbi says. "With all due respect to the Magistrate's Court, the prosecution should pursue such cases all the way."

Partem says he "would like to hope that the State Attorney's Office will not be covered into taking a more passive role" in public corruption matters. On the other hand, he suggests that the string of acquittals "will require the State Attorney's Office to tighten its evidentiary standards, to try to be more certain that when it decides to indict someone, the indictment is based on very, very sound evidence." In all, Partem says, the series of high-profile acquittals undoubtedly damages the State Attorney's Office's ability to fight alleged public corruption in Israel.

But he adds: "The damage is not irreparable." Nothing, let's say, that a few more good convictions in the near future couldn't fix.

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סוכן מן הארץ

Unwanted neighbors

The three Arab women whose Jerusalem apartment was firebombed on Sunday are caught in the middle. They are too independent for their own community, and the Jewish one has violently rejected them, Dan Izenberg writes

Except for the smoke stains above the front door — evidence of the second attempt in six weeks to kill them — the apartment of the three Arab women from Galilee, Manal Diab, and Sonya and Wafa Khoury, looks like any home of young, spirited people.

The sun-filled living room is full of plants and flowers, family photos are pinned to the bulletin board, two bookcases are lined with Hebrew and Arabic books and cassette tapes, and plastic covers still protect the seats of the new dining-room set. It's hard to believe that such an unpretentious home with so many signs of love and life could attract hatred so great as to wish to destroy it, at the risk of killing its inhabitants.

After a long search, Diab and the Khoury sisters managed last July to find an apartment on the top floor of a building located in the Jewish neighborhood of Musrara, at the very edge of the seam that used to separate east and west Jerusalem. From their balcony, the women can easily see the domes of the Aksa and Omar mosques.

A day after the second firebombing, which took place earlier this week, an angry Diab carted a heap of cardboard boxes up the narrow staircase to the fourth-floor apartment. Some men, who saw the boxes and understood that she was packing up, began laughing at her. "That's it? You're leaving?" they mocked.

Their meanness, on top of the murderous malevolence of the firebombings, was too much for her, and she burst into tears.

"I've lived in Jerusalem for seven years," said the 26-year-old former resident of Tamra. "In all that time, nothing like this has ever happened to me. I'm not leaving this apartment because I'm giving up. If I had my own home and a profession, if I were economically stable, I would have no problem staying and fighting."

"But I'm just starting life and I have so much to do. I need to grow and develop. I don't have time to waste on this nonsense."

Despite Manal's momentary

despair, however, the women have not, in fact, decided what to do.

"I'm vacillating," said Sonya Khoury. "If we stay here, it means taking total responsibility for our lives. Maybe we should leave and forget about everything that happened. But that would be hard. I so, so badly want the police to apprehend the arsonists."

"If we leave, this type of thing will continue and there won't be an end to it. By staying, we will be fighting for our rights. But staying means putting our lives at some risk. It's a very difficult decision."

Whoever is after them seems determined to force them out. The apartment had previously been firebombed on October 13. This past Sunday, at 4 a.m., a small explosive went off in a bucket outside their apartment door. One of the women then noticed a suspicious package in the hallway and called police; the package in fact contained a second bomb, and a policeman suffered minor burns while attempting to dismantle it.

DIAB, DRESSED in tight slacks and sweater, looks tough on the outside, but her tears and chain-smoking reveal how hurt she is. Khoury has a softer look to her. But both are fiercely independent and determined women who are enraged at the treatment they have received from Jewish Jerusalemites during their years in the city. The arson attempts may constitute a different, more dangerous, level of hostility, but it is not uncharacteristic of their experiences, they said.

For example, it is almost impossible for them to rent an apartment.

After the first arson attempt, the landlord ordered them to vacate

and gave them a month's notice. Over the next six weeks, they responded to 30 ads and were turned down in all but two of them.

"In one case, we went to see an apartment in French Hill," said Diab. "The man was so afraid we were terrorists that he kept looking around the room to make sure one

of us wouldn't attack him."

"It came to the point where I was ashamed to say I was an Arab," said Khoury.

Housing isn't the only problem. Khoury said she has also had trouble finding a job.

"As a student, the only work I could get was in hotels, because Arabs can work on Fridays and Saturdays. Afterwards, I was turned down for many jobs for which I was qualified."

"Once, I went to one of the health funds. The woman asked

me if I could word process. I said yes. She asked if I could touch-type. I said no, but that I type quickly. She said it's okay, you have the job."

"Then I told her that I was an Arab and asked if it was still okay. Without skipping a beat, she replied: 'Ah, but we need someone who knows how to touch-type. Sorry.'"

The only easily available full-time jobs for Arabs are in the support services where the pay is low and Jews do not want to work, she continued.

Khoury said that growing up in Nazareth, she had little awareness of what it meant to be an Arab in a predominantly Jewish society. It was at the Hebrew University that she learned about her status and the status of her people, and in Jewish Jerusalem where she experienced it.

"When I walk down Jaffa Street, or in the Mashbir Lazareban department store, I feel that I'm not wanted," she said. "If I speak Arabic, people move away from me. They must think we're primitive, or have horns or something."

"I don't know where they get these ideas. I don't want to remind the Jews about what happened to them in Europe. It's very hard to be rejected all the time. They were also rejected in Europe."

Khoury said she has relations of affection and mutual respect with some Jews — at work, for example — but no close friends among them.

"I feel that I am being hurt all the time. If there is a true peace and I no longer feel that the Israelis are tormenting me and my people, I will have no problem being friends with Jews. But the way things are, I see how racist they are towards us, and what is

going on in the territories, it is hard for me."

DESPITE THESE difficulties, Diab, a clerk in west Jerusalem, and Khoury, who works in the tourist industry, have no intention of leaving Jerusalem. For these independent women, the homes of their childhood are no alternative.

"Jerusalem is a big city, it's more open," said Khoury. "Here I can develop more in work, in everything."

Behind that surprising statement — given her experiences — is the credo of a young Arab woman fighting for her autonomy against the traditional society in which she grew up.

"It's not easy to be an Arab woman," she said. "When I grew up, I began to rebel against the traditional concept of the Arab woman's place. And I'm still rebelling."

"A couple of years ago I had a ferocious argument with my uncle. I thought my father was going to faint. But I argued back and didn't flinch. My father got mad at me but I told him I'll say whatever I want."

"There are a few women like me. Some of them couldn't take it any more and gave in. Others never married. But I am with them and support them and hope that those girls who are not fighting will understand that we are fighting for our daughters and for their daughters. We don't want to live the old way any more. I will go where I want, when I want. It's my life."

The seemingly obvious answer to the women's housing dilemma would be to rent in east Jerusalem. But they have tried it and found that it has its own problems.

"If there were a reasonable place to live in east Jerusalem, with bus routes and banks, I would have no problem living among my people," said Diab, her eyes flashing. "But you know what things are like there. The authorities allow drugs to flourish and want to kill everyone. What do they think? That they'll kill me, too?" Khoury added that they had lived for one year in the Beit Hamina area in east Jerusalem, but that "the Arab men also found it hard to accept us because of our independent ways. They would whistle at us and curse us."

ACCORDING TO Eyad Mahameed, the former head of the Hebrew University's unofficial Arab Student Committee and a fourth-year law student, about 450 Arab students live off campus, including a large number of freshmen aged 18-19, who were accepted to the university after the dormitory application date expired. Mahameed, the son of Hadash MK Hashem Mahameed, said that for each of the past two years, he spent two months looking for lodging. Among the many who turned him down were a large number of Jewish students who had advertised on campus for roommates.

"Every time I applied, I was interrogated," said Mahameed. "I could see they were uptight. They wanted to get out of this situation somehow. They would say they'd get back to me in a day or two, but never call. Or if they did call, they would say the room had already been rented. In one case, I had a Jewish friend call up afterwards. He was told the room was still available."

"When I talked to someone on the phone we'd always come to that point where they would ask: 'What's your name?' When I told them, you could hear them suck in their breath. You could tell they



"If there were a reasonable place to live in east Jerusalem, with bus routes and banks, I would have no problem living among my people," says Manal Diab

were going into a state of alert and thinking to themselves: 'What do I do now? It's an Arab. How do I get out of this?'

The longer Mahameed looked, the more desperate he became. "I always felt like I had to pass a test, to live up to someone's expectations," he said. "I tried to be as agreeable as possible. I never even asked about the rent. I would tell them right away that I go home every weekend, that I don't bring friends over to the flat. I started off from an inferior position in which I had to beg them to accept me because I am an Arab."

Mahameed said that the most painful of all these experiences was when left-wing students rejected him. About five of the 25 people who turned him down belonged to that category.

"It affected me deeply," he said. "It made me question the idea of brotherhood between Arabs and Jews — whether it's at all possible. I perceive the Left differently now. The real test of their beliefs is whether they are willing to live together."

"I have many Jewish friends and I want to live with them. But they don't want to live with me. They put up a sign saying: 'Keep your distance.'"

According to Yousef Jabareen, a representative of the Haifa branch of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Arabs also suffer from housing discrimination in Tel Aviv, Haifa and other mixed cities.

"The refusal of Jews to rent to Arabs is a blow to the dignity of the Arab population and is indicative of a racist attitude towards them," he said.

There is no law that makes racial discrimination in housing illegal here, he added. ACRI plans to press for such a law, and has already been working on legislation to prevent discrimination in public places, such as swimming pools, nightclubs, etc.

ACRI has provided some support for Diab and the Khoury sisters. So has Al-Fanar, an Arab feminist organization based in Haifa. Al-Fanar dispatched guards to help protect the three women after the first firebombing. It was the guard who was first alerted to Sunday's explosion.

During the long run, the women are on their own and facing a crucial decision. For Sonya Khoury, her plight is in part a metaphor for what she regards as the plight of her people.

"It is a bit frightening, but so what. It will pass," she said, when asked how she felt when she was alone in the apartment. "We must not give in to racism. If I give in every time, they will throw us out of this country altogether."

But the issue is not just a national one. It is the unique struggle of three Arab women for their individual freedom.

"My people don't want to accept me because I want to live independently," said Khoury. "The Jews don't want to accept me because I'm an Arab. And I'm caught in the middle."



"It's not easy to be an Arab woman," says Sonya Khoury. "When I grew up, I began to rebel against the traditional concept of the Arab woman's place. And I'm still rebelling. We don't want to live the old way any more. I will go where I want, when I want. It's my life"

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سكنا من الاصل

Soccer and satire: Iran's other face

Overaken with emotion at the Iranian soccer team's performance in Australia last Saturday, two young Iranian engineers working in Indonesia telephoned long-distance to a popular radio talk show to share their feelings with their countrymen. Sobbing and laughing at Iran's qualifying for the World Cup competition, they let it all flow as they talked to the Voice of Israel's Persian-language studio in Jerusalem. Their words, they knew, would be relayed that evening to millions of Iranians who are faithful listeners to Israel Radio, including many of Iran's leaders.

The extraordinary relationship between residents of Iran and the official radio station of Israel — as it were, the Mother of Islamic Fundamentalism and Little Satan — was highlighted last week by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader. In a speech to Republican Guards, he accused Israel Radio of attempting to stir up trouble by reporting a talk given to a closed circle in the holy city of Qum by his political enemy, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who attacked government corruption. The speech had

The public rejoicing over Iran's soccer victory last week is just one sign that the country is heading out of the dark recesses of fundamentalism, as Abraham Rabinovich discovers

gone unreported in Iran but a copy reached Israel Radio. In attacking the stadion, Khamenei indirectly reinforced its credibility by acknowledging the report as factual and by making it evident that he himself was a listener.

"The Iranians have come to the conclusion that we don't lie," says an official on the Farsi-language staff, who chooses to remain anonymous. "They see it in our broadcast of events in Israel in which we report attacks made on our own prime minister. When we report statements by the Iranian government, we give it straight. If they say they are not involved in terrorism abroad, we report it. A well-known Iranian journalist last year wrote in their literary magazine *Gardoon* ('the turning

world") that in matters of news reporting, Israel Radio has the highest credibility for Iranians."

One of the most popular aspects of the short-wave broadcasts are the phone-ins from Iranian residents and from Iranian exiles to numbers in Israel and the US. Thousands of Iranian residents phone in, despite their government's implacable hostility toward the Jewish state. Comments are recorded and broadcast later, sometimes with a reply from the Jerusalem studio. "They can talk about anything," says the radio official. "They generally express their opinions on topical issues. Some say they are learning from us what democracy is. We've even gotten calls from people who say they are

members of the Revolutionary Guard. Sometimes people call to say 'Death to Israel' and we broadcast that too." Following the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Iranian callers expressed their sorrow, many of them weeping.

The news broadcasts on the Farsi-language service and the political commentary by the head of the service, Menashe Amir, are followed closely by the Iranian news media. "There's almost no day that their newspapers don't quote four or five items from our broadcasts," says the official. They quote, too, the notes from *The Jerusalem Post's* Internet edition.

"Iran is one of the first countries to understand the significance of the Internet. Almost all their daily newspapers are on the Internet, and so are many of their periodicals. They are not as open a society as in the West, but they are far more so than their Arab neighbors."

This growing openness is reflected by the print media, which frequently castigates the government for mismanagement and corruption and sometimes even on matters of foreign policy. Particularly barbed is the satirical weekly *Gol Agha*, which feels free to attack any public figure as long as he wears civilian dress and not clerical garb. The cover of one edition shows a government bureaucrat at the foot of a steep flight of stairs leading up to a courthouse. To the bearded Republican Guardsman accompanying him he says, "Just for stealing a million dollars, do I have to walk up all those steps?"

The public reaction to last week's soccer game in Australia was a noteworthy marker on Iran's march from the dark recesses of fundamentalism towards... somewhere else.

Millions took to the streets in celebration, and the crowds flooding Teheran airport to receive the returning players were so dense and emotional — many thousands had spent the previous night sleeping there — that the authorities decided to helicopter the team from the airport to the packed stadium where more supporters were awaiting them. Thousands of women were permitted into the stadium, a venue normally barred to them.

"It's not clear whether the authorities helicoptered the team to the stadium instead of taking it by road for practical reasons or because they didn't want to permit too much public adulation," says the radio official who closely



Ali Daei (center) and the other members of the Iranian national soccer team are greeted by over 70,000 Iranian fans upon their return from Australia on Tuesday in Teheran. (AP)

monitors the Iranian media. "In any case, the government finally jumped on the bandwagon. Until the game, the official line had been to criticize sports enthusiasm as being a diversion from Islam."

After the celebrations, which went on for three days, the newspaper *Salam*, which is close to the government, declared in an editorial that it would be a mistake to attribute the public's reaction to football frenzy. It was, said the paper, an expression of nationalism.

Official Iranian hostility to Israel has not changed, and extremists still use the term "Little Satan" and threaten to destroy the Jewish state. This attitude, however, is not shared by the general Iranian public, says the Farsi service official.

Before Rabin's assassination, when it seemed that Israel and Syria might reach a peace agreement, even official attitudes in Teheran seemed to become moderate to the extent that officials indicated they would not attempt to stand in the way of any such agreement.

Prior to last May's presidential elections in Iran, *Gol Agha* gave vent to a widespread feeling that the government would not permit its candidate, Ali Akbar Nategh-Nouri, to be defeated by the moderate Mohammed Khatami. Mimicking a formula used on Iranian television to teach correct Farsi — "this is the way you pronounce the word, this is the way you spell it" — the satirical magazine depicted a government figure scolding the public, "This is the way you pronounce the word 'Khatami'; this is the way you spell it: N-s-t-e-g-h N-o-u-r-i." To general astonishment, Khatami won by a wide margin, a resounding indication that the Iranian public wanted a change in course from force-fed fundamentalism.

Khatami has not disappointed. In the past week, says the Farsi service official, the president made a remarkable speech in his birthplace, Yazd. "He said, 'It's true that we are Moslems and that we have an ancient culture of Islam, but we must never forget that we are first of all Iranians and then Moslems.' That is a fantastic thing for him to say. Its meaning is that the Islamic revolution has failed."

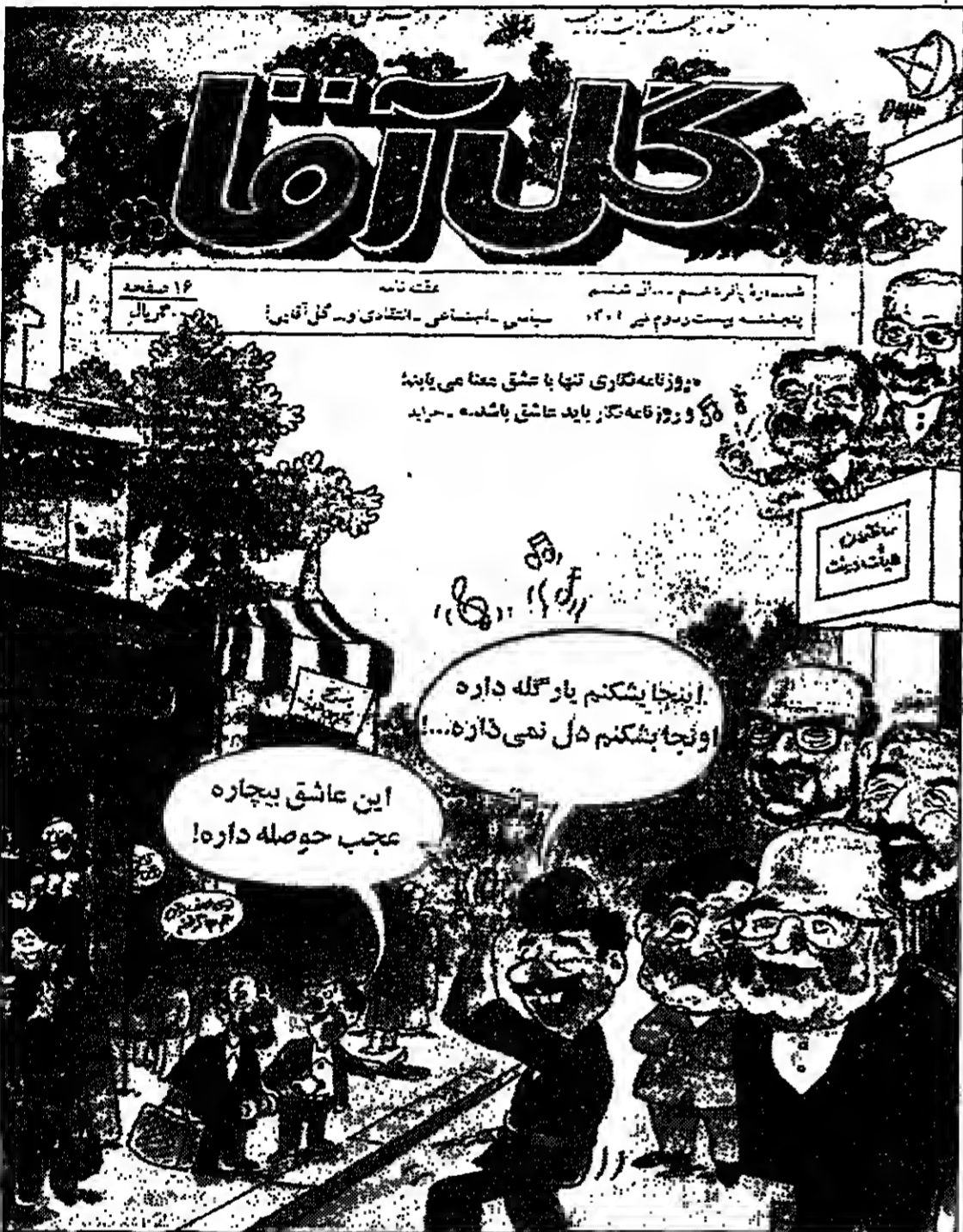
At the Cannes Film Festival last spring, it was a low-budget Iranian film, *A Taste of Cherries*, that won the Golden Palm award. When the director, Abbas Kiarostami, mounted the stage he was kissed by the French actress hosting the ceremony. Most Iranian newspapers chose to ignore the incident, but some criticized the director for "unsuitable" behavior in permitting himself to be publicly kissed. The director defended himself by saying that to have pulled away would have been scandalous for Iran's image.

It was not until last weekend that a modest ceremony was held in Teheran by the local film industry to honor Rostami for his notable achievement.

To the surprise of all, President Khatami suddenly entered, even bringing with him two of his three children. In a moving speech, he said that all great developments in history had begun with the thinking of true artists.

He himself was not an artist, he said, but he admired and appreciated what they did. This was not the voice of fundamentalism but an authentic humanistic expression.

Beneath the seeming uniformity of beards and black garb, something monumental is clearly on the move in Iran.



Cover of Iranian satirical weekly 'Gol Agha' shows government ministers at right, identified by face and title, watching contentedly as common folk form lines for hard-to-get provisions. The dancing clown sings a variation on a popular ditty about this being the way of the world. The roof of the ministers' building has a satellite dish, while the common folk's building makes do with ordinary television antennas.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

'Govern!' ordered the dying Cardinal Jules Mazarin. 'Govern, and then master you.' And so, a few hours after the Italian-turned-French chief minister stopped breathing, Louis XIV wiped the tears which filled his eyes due to the loss of his omnipotent godfather, and then shocked his aides by announcing that he, the 23-year-old monarch, would be his own chief minister, which he was, for the remaining 34 years of his reign.

The chief minister's sting

scholarly and soft-spoken chief minister seemed to be the right man in the right place. Not that he would carry out the equivalent of ending the bloody Thirty Years War or enlisting Oliver Cromwell in order to defeat Spain - as Mazarin had - but the political tax expert Neeman did offer a refreshing antithesis to the dreary congregation of career politicians, retired generals and small-time sycophants who traditionally populated Israeli cabinets.

largest-ever privatization - was finalized by Neeman. And when he elegantly led the first reading in the Knesset of next year's budget, veteran pundits concluded that Yaakov Neeman had become a force to contend with, a consigliere whose power paradoxically stemmed from the powerlessness of a partyless non-MK.

legislative branches. Among his goals were the appointments of non-politicians as senior ministers, establishing national security and economic councils led by professional nonpoliticians, and forcing cabinet members to forfeit their Knesset seats to the next in line on the party list through the so-called Norwegian Law.

may have been worth the hefty price it imposed on a distraught public. Professional non-politicians would be a welcome change in Israeli cabinets, since they would spend less of their time weighing, accumulating and sporting their power. But even so, they would have to follow the guidance of their elected leader. Instead, Neeman's shot from the hip, like his arrival at the Treasury, was haphazard, and did nothing but further complicate an already intolerably besieged prime minister's life.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them he said: 'This is God's camp,' and he called the name of that place Mahanaim." (Gen. 32:2-3)

Where would a middle-aged Jacob, replete with responsibility for a retinue of four wives and children, find the courage to leave the comfort of a successful business and relative security for a barren land where his brother Esau is waiting to demand remuneration for the stolen blessing?

Valuing one's own worth

Parashat Vayesave

We can hardly blame young Jacob for desperately wanting to win his father's love. And we can even understand his feeling that the way to achieve that love was by amassing material possessions; after all, the favored Esau was a hunter. We can even rationalize the use of deceit to acquire those possessions because the Torah hints that deceptiveness was second nature to Esau - "the hunt, or entrapment, in his mouth" can also be taken to mean that Esau was forthright.

In short, Jacob attempts to become as much like Esau as possible. And so Jacob deceives his father in order to receive the blessing of material prosperity, "the dew of the heavens, the fat of the land, and much grain and wine," and successfully apprentices under the master deceiver himself, Laban.

And indeed, Jacob does "make it" in terms of material success: "And the man increased exceedingly and had large flocks and maid-servants and men-servants and camels and asses" (Gen. 30:43). But then "Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban and, behold, it was not with him as it had been before."

Now, if one is dependent on material possessions for one's self-esteem, then one becomes likewise dependent on the individual responsible for that prosperity.

As our Sages teach: "R. Yohanan and R. Elazar both said: When an individual is dependent on other human beings, his face changes like a Kroom... What is a 'Kroom'? When Rav Dimi came, he said: 'There is a bird in the cities on the other side of the sea, and its name is Kroom. And when the sun shines, it changes into many colors (dependent upon the reflections of the sunlight)'" (B.T. Berakhot 6b).

There is a midrash which expresses this idea in a charming way. Three individuals set out on a long sea voyage. The first brought his merchandise to sell - a large box filled with diamonds. The second brought a large box filled with silk garments.

The third had no baggage but claimed that his merchandise was superior to that of the others. A storm broke, and the diamonds and silks had to be cast overboard. Ultimately there was a shipwreck; the three hapless passengers found themselves penniless and friendless in a strange environment.

In short order, however, the third traveler was discovered to be a proficient Torah scholar and was asked to become the spiritual leader of the Jewish community there. "I told you," he said to his incredulous companions, "I had the best merchandise."

It would seem that Jacob started out with the proper values and the right priorities. He was, after all, a student.

His earliest dream was a spiritual one, of ascending and descending angels, of connecting heaven and earth, of returning to God. He wanted to be rather than to own.

But he was jealous of his older brother, Esau - and especially of the fact that "Isaac loved Esau, because of the hunt in his mouth" (Gen. 25:28).

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

It is interesting to note the crucial role played by women in the unfolding of the history narrated in the Torah. There are, for example, Eve's initiative in eating of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge; Sarah's initiative in driving away Hagar and Ishmael; Rebecca's initiative in getting Jacob, the birthright-blessing, though Esau was the firstborn son.

Jacob and the speckled sheep

for him." God therefore decides to create "out of the adam every beast of the field and every fowl in the sky, and He brought them to the adam to see what he would call them; and whatever the adam called every living creature would be its name."

begats. Here, too, it is the women who name their children, with each name telling a story through a play on words. Only Benjamin/Binyamin is named so by Jacob after Rachel, who died while giving birth to him, had with her dying breath named him Ben Ovi, meaning "son of my sorrow" (Genesis 35).

breed of sheep whose origin is not known with any certainty, though it is believed that they originated in Mesopotamia." Further investigation led the Aumanns to the Jacob Sheep Society. It was founded in England in 1969, by Lady Aramintha Aldington, daughter of the last high commissioner of Mandatory Palestine, General Sir Alan Cunningham.

Advertisement for 'Who Stole Hanukkah?! The Great Interactive Mystery Game'. Includes text: 'Somebody has stolen Professor Croak's prize collector's item - the miraculous jar of oil found by the Maccabees when they defeated the Greeks! Together with Nerli the Detective, figure out which of the suspects is the culprit'. Features an image of a CD-ROM case and a list of features: 'An absolute must for every Jewish home, Synagogue, school and JCC!', 'Colorful animation, Jewish tradition and CD-ROM technology combine to bring you the best in Hanukkah entertainment.', 'Engages kids of all ages for hours and hours.', 'Everything to know about the Hanukkah holiday.', 'Great for home and all educational environments.', '5 languages all on a single disc: English, Hebrew, Russian, French and Spanish.'

Who wants to party?



Why is Yitzhak Moda'i heading the Jubilee Committee? 'Because I'm crazy.'

Jubilee chairman Yitzhak Moda'i pushes a letter from World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman across his desk.

"I was surprised and delighted," writes Bronfman, "to learn that you have taken on the chairmanship of the 50th Anniversary Committee. Congratulations, ... or condolences, whichever applies."

Showing the letter is Moda'i's partial answer to why he took the job and as he takes it back, he adds his own comment: "because I'm crazy."

Moda'i has approximately six months to pull together a program that should have started at least three years ago, but didn't. The program was launched with media fanfare last June only to disintegrate three months later amid a welter of accusations and recriminations and the resignations of everybody connected to the jubilee management: producers Haim Slutski and Yossi Peled, preceded by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav in his function as jubilee government facilitator.

Katsav has since rescinded his resignation, but the infighting and lack of planning prompted State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to convene a special session to decide whether there is room for an official investigation.

Yes, it could be said that Moda'i was reasonably crazy to take on what looked - and still looks - like a surefire loser. Which is why, when he finally accepted the job on October 20, it was only after the government had agreed, in writing, to a stiff list of condi-

Yitzhak Moda'i tells Helen Kaye what he has in store for Israel's 50th birthday

tions including the cancellation of all decisions pertaining to the jubilee prior to that date.

Sitting at his uncluttered desk in his spacious office on the top floor of the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem, Moda'i smiles ironically. "I know that there'll be criticism even if I succeed beyond all expectations, which I probably will not, so I hereby let the media know that I can sharpen its pencils and clear its throat."

Moda'i's many initial proposals for the jubilee year have included offering free transportation on Independence Day, renewed negotiations with Syria and a new coin. His idea to implement a "broad amnesty" set off a storm of controversy.

The president, justice minister and State Attorney's Office all expressed their opposition to a special amnesty to celebrate the country's jubilee.

Some reports said Moda'i's proposal referred to indicted individuals, and not just those already serving prison terms, interpreted to mean that some political figures involved in ongoing trials, such as Aryeh Deri, would also get amnesty.

In a recent interview with the Jerusalem weekly *Yerushalayim*, Moda'i clarified that he was not referring to a general amnesty, which would require special legislation, and certainly not an amnesty for people who may have been indicted but not yet convicted.

But Moda'i remains quite passionate about the issue. "Amnesty is even more important than the celebrations," he says. "Even if only four additional people are pardoned during the year."

To the interview with *Yerushalayim*, Moda'i was merciless in his criticism of his predecessors heading the Jubilee Committee, particularly Haim Slutski, whom he accused of having accomplished nothing.

But Moda'i was equally withering in his criticism of the government. With the exception of the minister of defense, who sent him a detailed program, not one cabinet minister, he charged, has presented any proposals, requests or plans for the celebrations.

"This government was unaware that it has to plan. It appointed people to the committee without supervising them, people who did nothing to advance the project. Now the ministers say they have ideas? Now they're waking up?"

Moda'i concedes that Israelis today are not exactly in a celebratory mood, but he says he is committed to trying to give the nation the feeling that a jubilee is taking place.

"A jubilee," he told *The Jerusalem Post*, "is very special in the life of a people and a nation, but for us, especially, it is a year of reorganization and renewal for the country."

Asked whether he thinks Israel is better off today than it was 50 years ago, Moda'i hesitates a moment. "In real terms Israel is a phenomenon. To build an advanced state on a bit of desert is a miracle by any standards.

"Spiritually, we have a gap between hope and reality," he continues, "and the more our hopes are inflated regarding such things as peace, security and living standards, the greater the gap."

Unofficially, the jubilee will begin with the first light of Hanukkah lit at the President's Residence and around the world on December 23.

Officially, the jubilee year starts on Independence Day, May 12, 1998, although there is no event scheduled for that day. The events calendar, says Moda'i, is designed "to bring a smile into Israeli households."

Much of the program has survived from that announced in June and includes the three big events that were then approved by the government: the IDF spectacular at the Ramat Gan Stadium, the prime minister's economic convention and the countrywide exhibition of Israel's achievements. The jubilee ends December 24 next year with a TV documentary made of the year's jubilee events.

The difference between the program announced in June and Moda'i's is that his has been approved, as has the budget, which has had more ups and downs than a roller-coaster. The original NIS 250 million promised by Katsav (and one of the main reasons for the ugly relationships that developed among himself, Slutski and Peled) was slashed to NIS 70m., but has now been partially restored to NIS 120m. by combining two years' budgets.

Moda'i stresses that the jubilee is for all the country's citizens. To this end he has organized a two-day Arab-Jewish encounter at Kibbutz Ginosar on the Kinneret next June as well as an event for the Circassian, Druze and Beduin communities "who are very definitely Israeli."

Other major events include an international chess tournament with Gary Kasparov (April), a jubilee rally in April and a jubilee march in May - both to be held in Jerusalem - and a sound-and-light show, the venue for which has not been decided yet.

Each of the 13 staff members in Moda'i's office is responsible for one particular aspect of the jubilee but the buck stops at Moda'i's desk, to borrow president Truman's famous phrase. Moda'i insisted on sole authority as jubilee chairman, and insists that, if the project fails, it will be his sole responsibility as well.

The public career of Moda'i, who was born 71 years ago in Tel Aviv, has included the chairmanship of the Liberal party, MK from 1973-77, and four ministerial portfolios from 1977 to 1992. He was minister of finance from 1984-86 and again from 1990-92. Today he heads his own investment firm, a job he reluctantly put aside to take on the jubilee.

So, to return to the first question: why did he take the job? "I got a lot of pressure from everybody," he responds, "from the prime minister on down. The situation is critical," they told me. Well, the patient is still on the critical list, but at least he's stable."

GRAPEVINE BY GREENGLASS



Lady Jakobovits (left) embraces her childhood friend Judith Hemendinger.

The adventures of Lady J

When youthful great-grandmother Lady Jakobovits, wife of the former chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth, accepted an invitation to high tea at the home of Michal Halevi, widow of Supreme Court judge Benjamin Halevi, she did not imagine that she would be reunited with a childhood friend. Lady J, as Amelle Jakobovits is called, had just regaled her fellow guests with tales of her visit to Windsor Castle when Halevi said she had a surprise for her and called on former Freuch social worker Judith Hemendinger to come forward.

When Lady J's family went from Germany to France after World War II, they stayed with Hemendinger's family and maintained a lifelong friendship. The two women, who hadn't seen each other in two years, fell into each other's arms.

LADY JAKOBOVITS recalled that she and her husband were the third Jewish couple to be invited to dine at Windsor Castle some 15 years ago. The then chief rabbi was out of the country, and his wife received news of the invitation from his secretary, who told her that the date coincided with the last day of Pessah. When her husband returned, he wrote to the queen explaining why he had to decline. He received a letter of apology from the queen's private secretary, who issued a new invitation for a date two weeks later, noting that there were no Jewish holidays at that time. He subsequently sent three menus for approval and said they could bring their own kosher caterer.

The queen and 20 other dignitaries had a dinner menu that was identical to theirs except that it was not kosher. But a Jewish caterer is, after all, a Jewish caterer, and he couldn't help but show off. Much to the embarrassment

Blonde hair perfectly in place, immaculately made up, and wearing a businesslike yet feminine pin-stripe suit, Rosenblum was convincing and articulate. A long-term volunteer in her own right, Reuma Weizman, who appreciates the difficulties of trying to raise money, praised the initiative of Ilan and the Center for the Blind in joining forces to raise funds. She noted that it was clever of them to choose so beautiful and popular a personality as Rosenblum to head the campaign.

DEPUTY MAYOR of Tel Aviv, Mordchai Virshupski, who also holds the city's art and culture portfolio and is in charge of the department for international relations, speaking at a recital at Yad Lebanim by the Slovak Philharmonic Choir, told the largely Czech-speaking audience which filled the auditorium. "The only words I know in Czech are Smetana, Dvorak, Janacek and the names of other Czech composers." The arrival of the choir, he emphasized, was a good start for relations between Israel and the Slovak Republic. The event was co-hosted by Hitachdut Yotsei Czechoslovakia and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic. After the concert, Slovakian ambassador Frantisek Dihopolec held a reception in honor of the choir.

MOST celebrity weddings at Tel Aviv's Gan Oranim are lavish affairs for 1,000 and more guests. Songwriter Ehud Manor and his wife, Ofra Fuchs, wanted something a little more intimate for the marriage of their daughter Gali to Tzachi Gal, son of Rachel and the late Ze'ev Gal, so they limited the invites to 200. The Reform ceremony was performed by Rabbi Maya Leibowitz. Among those attending was Manor's good friend and associ-



Pinna Rosenblum and Reuma Weizman fund-raising for Ilan, the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children, and the Center for the Blind.

of the Jakobovitses, the kosher portions were double the size of the others.

Among those captivated by Lady J's recollections were Rebetzin Rikel Eichenstein, mother of Rahhi Yehosua Eichenstein who heads the Yad Aharon Yeshiva where some of the Jakobovits grandchildren go to school; Chana Homnick, actively associated with fund-raising efforts for the yeshiva; Vivian Dinitz; Valerie Adler; Chana Sheink; and Batsheva Mink.

The Jakobovitses are in Israel for the Yeshivat Yad Aharon dinner at which they will be honored.

SOME very prestigious figures have sat beside President Ezer Weizman at official functions at Beit Hanassi, but none as beautiful as cosmetics queen Pinna Rosenblum, who is chairing the joint fund-raising drive of Ilan, the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children, and the Center for the Blind. Some participants sat with bated breath waiting for the president to address her as "maidele" but he refrained. He did, however, call her by her first name while referring to a male official as "Mr."

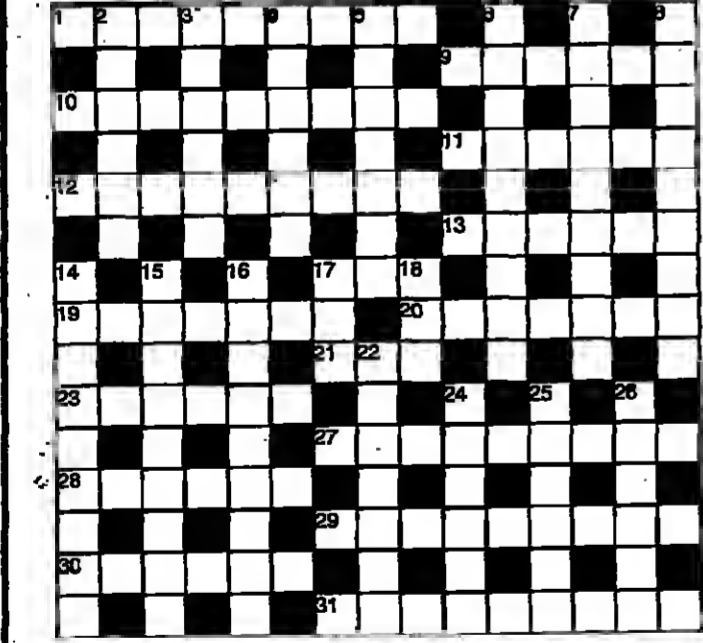
ate Matti Caspi, who was surprised when Manor stopped the dancing to announce that there was cause for another celebration and presented him with a large birthday cake. Caspi was moved to tears. Also present were Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and his wife, Dorit; Manor's long-time radio partner Rivka Michaeli and her husband, Reuven Sharoni; plus other showbiz personalities such as Shoshana Damari, Yomatan Carmoon, Tzveti Tzarfati, Kobi Oshrat, Yaron London, Orna Bana, Boaz Sharabi and Hanan Yovel. When the bride was younger, her father wrote a song called "Gali." He may owe do a follow-up called "Gali Gal."

AFTER two decades of promoting friendship and cultural relations between Israel and Finland, Pesach Ostashtinski, director of the Institute for Jewish Studies of Miteuropea and chairman of the Friends of Finland in Israel Association, was awarded the insignia of Knight of the Order of the Lion by the President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari. The award was conferred on him by Finnish ambassador Arto Taznerat, followed by a reception.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

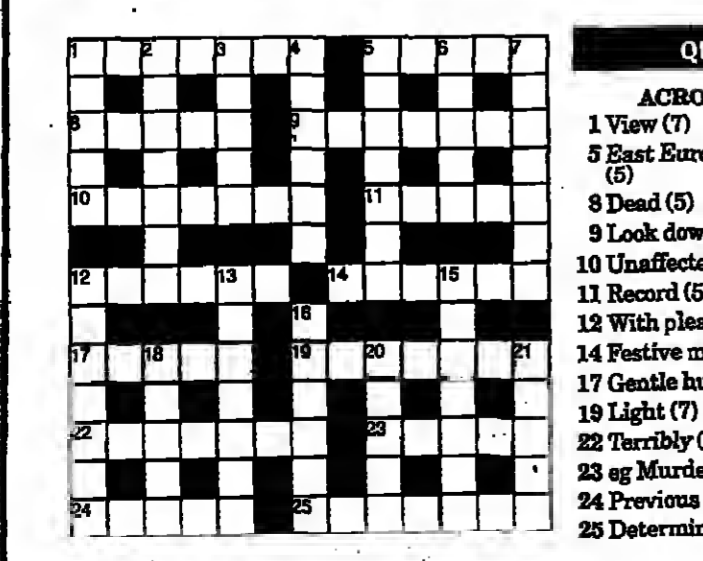
- ACROSS**
- 1 Rude in a gentle fashion (9)
 - 9 Foreign office (6)
 - 10 Those wanting the best offer views about a catalogue (9)
 - 11 Unwrap and start firing (4,2)
 - 12 Where army authority is vested as a rule (2,7)
 - 13 One's fate in Saudi Arabia? (6)
 - 17 Smart little creature (3)
 - 19 Grim Scotsman and sailor about (7)
 - 20 A condition little Edward ended up with (7)
 - 21 Not all people feel kindly towards deer (3)
 - 23 Behold a revolutionary in a Texan town (6)
 - 27 There are many at the bakers' ball (9)
 - 28 One who bowed to a papist woman (6)
 - 29 Formal attire in which to treat hearts, say (5,4)
 - 30 Mother takes a vehicle up for use by bandsman (6)
 - 31 Derivation of English mother-race (9)
- DOWN**
- 2 She's a big noise in Tyne and Wear (6)
 - 3 An article to be followed (6)
 - 4 One has no power in banking (6)
 - 5 Clear round called in this game for ladies (7)
 - 6 Too self-important to hit it back to us? Nothing in it (9)
 - 7 Airmen ate in mess to refresh the body (2-7)
 - 8 Being in wrong groove and getting tied up in a knot causes depravity (9)
 - 14 Deadly weapons babies have (5,4)
 - 15 Driver's record vehicle scratched outside (5,4)
 - 16 Once round garden that's in submission (9)
 - 17 Charge costs nothing - not right (3)
 - 18 Animal Kay brought up (3)
 - 22 Lily supporting party banner (7)
 - 24 The union that speaks with one voice (6)
 - 25 Have a bet about ass, you dog (6)
 - 26 Less than half are psychotic (6)



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DOWN: 1 Tackle, 2 Kapok, 3 Row, 5 Amused, 6 Dropped, 7 Beadle, 8 Beach, 13 Apples, 15 Trainee, 17 Stream, 18 Fence, 19 Studie, 22 Lapse, 23 Zinc.



QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 View (7)
 - 5 East Europeans (5)
 - 8 Dead (5)
 - 9 Look down on (7)
 - 10 Unaffected (7)
 - 11 Record (5)
 - 12 With pleasure (6)
 - 14 Festive meals (6)
 - 17 Gentle human (5)
 - 19 Light (7)
 - 22 Terribly (7)
 - 23 eg Murder (5)
 - 24 Previous (5)
 - 25 Determine (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Vegetable (5)
 - 2 Laziness (7)
 - 3 Bury (5)
 - 4 Ganglion (6)
 - 5 Transit (7)
 - 6 Discover (5)
 - 7 Tennis matches (7)
 - 12 Smirk (7)
 - 13 Faithfulness (7)
 - 15 Out of the ordinary (7)
 - 16 Actor (6)
 - 18 Tender (6)
 - 20 Spoons (5)
 - 21 Female relative (5)

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"A" PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (incl. CNA) using Office	18	72	Wed. 12:30-4:30 p.m.	Dec. 3	Sun. 8 a.m. - 12 noon	Jan. 4
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT	13	40	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Feb. 25	Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 7
VISUAL C++	10	30	Mon. 9 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Feb. 23	Mon. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 6
VISUAL BASIC	10	30	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Jan. 5	Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 7
C/C++ PROGRAMMING	22	90	Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Mar. 15	Sun. 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Jan. 11
COREL DRAW	16	48	Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Jan. 5	Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	May 6
JAVA/VISUAL J++ (for Programmers & Programmers)	20	80	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 4	N/A	N/A
CERTIFIED NOVELL ADMINISTRATOR	10	40	Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Jan. 9	N/A	N/A

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Jerusalem Area

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HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Greek Colony, cottage, 5, renovated, garden + studio. 53,000. Tel. Paul 02-561-1222. E-mail: portico@netvision.net.il (68)

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US: Survivors must be helped this century

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat yesterday urged the 41 nations at the London conference on Nazi gold to complete investigations into their wartime financial affairs and disburse their contributions to Holocaust survivors by the end of the century.

"We must complete the work of confronting this tragedy with urgency and compassion," he said, adding that this must be done within the lifetime of the survivors.

Eizenstat stressed the need to assist the "double victims" - those in Eastern Europe who suffered under the Nazis and then under the communists - "who have a particular claim on our conscience."

The German government, he said, is currently discussing the question of compensating Holocaust victims in Eastern and Central Europe with the Jewish Material Claims Conference. "It is a very difficult issue, but it is one that cries out for justice."

He also stressed that the issue is not just about money, but about "shedding light on the Holocaust... We have this unique opportunity and we must use it."

In his closing remarks, Justice Ministry director-general Nili Arad said the three-day conference must lead to a determination "to open all archives, unlock the bolted doors of the past, and allow history to write the last pages of its darkest years." She proposed the creation of an information center in which all the historical information will be deposited as it becomes available.

In addition, she said, "the remainder of the looted gold

should be returned to its rightful owners." And she declared that Israel supported the activities of the World Jewish Restitution Organization in seeking to "gain compensation for the property stolen from the Jews."

She added that it is now clear that Switzerland put its own economic interests ahead of moral considerations when it withheld vital information on its stock of Nazi gold when negotiating the 1946 Washington Accord with the Allies.

Those discussions should now be reopened "to ensure that Holocaust victims, survivors, legitimate heirs, and the Jewish people as a whole receive their rightful share of the looted gold."

By the close of the conference, Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Luxembourg, and Poland had joined Britain and the US in committing themselves to contribute to a fund for aiding Holocaust victims.

The fund was intended to be a

repository for the remaining 5.5 tons of gold, worth about \$60 million, that is about to be distributed by the Tripartite Gold Commission to 15 nations whose treasures were looted by the occupying Nazis.

A British official said he is confident that further contributions would be made when delegates reported back to their governments.

A follow-up conference is scheduled to be held in Washington in the spring

Nazi gold conference marked by unusual Jewish unity

LONDON - The three-day, 41-nation London Conference on Nazi Gold left delegates feeling that they had been dragged through a wind tunnel, dazzled by the eye-crossing mass of technical details about murky deals conducted more than 50 years ago.

Shattered national reputations were reflected in the faces of embattled delegates and mystified journalists. "It's just not fair that they only pick on us," said one genuinely dismayed Swiss journalist.

But Switzerland was not alone in having its reputation shredded by the meticulously assembled case presented to the conference. The United States, Russia, Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Austria, Portugal, Spain, the Vatican... all of the major wartime protagonists emerged tainted by the profusion of allegations.

Ironically, it was the Vatican, to which many must have looked for a moral lead, that was alone in turning its back on deeply disturbing charges when the spotlight illuminated its wartime record - of, among others, laundering Nazi loot and receiving about \$1.5 million worth of gold stolen from gypsies who were murdered by the fascist Ustashi at the Croatian concentration camp of Jasenovac (which was, incidentally, run by Roman Catholic priests).

As the numbing details were examined, the shabby history revealed and the dirty secrets exposed in the

exquisite surroundings of Lancaster House, a former private palace directly opposite Buckingham Palace, the subtext to the drama was the unusual display of Jewish unity.

A clutch of Jewish organizations was indeed represented at the conference, as was Israel. Attempts were made, not least by countries under pressure, to wreck the process by exploiting the famous Jewish divisions and discord, but they were met by a seamless wall of unity. For once, the petty disputes were left at home.

This was an idealized vision of the modern Jewish world in microcosm, of cooperation and coordination. Working together were Israel and the Diaspora, American Reform and Israeli Orthodox, Labor and Likud. "Even the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry operated in perfect harmony," noted one delegate.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's Diaspora affairs advisor Bobby Brown was credited with forging some of that unity.

"He has ensured that this issue was not reduced to turf battles," said Eitan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "And he has ensured that it remained focused on the heart of the question, which is moral and material restitution for the Jewish people."

ANALYSIS

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FUNDS

You can light up someone's life

By BEVERLEE BLACK

"It said it... it said it and now it's come, with or without El Niño." Our prayers of Simhat Torah were answered. And, we hope, in sufficient quantity to fill the Kinneret to overflowing.

But the rain also brings another sort of flood. The flood of letters and phone calls from social workers requesting help for desperate families whose children have come home with soaking feet or from old folk who need blankets and heaters for the cold weather which is about to come.

Hanukka is almost upon us. A time for lighting up our homes and our hearts with candles and caring. A time for sharing with others.

Fifty years ago at Hanukka, when the immigrants were coming, it was raining cats and dogs and they were living in leaky tents in fields of mud. Helen Rossi, of blessed memory, had a brainwave. "Let's ask The Jerusalem Post

readers to clear out their closets of old toys that their kids no longer need and let's give them to the immigrant camps." The response was tremendous and from this great idea, a tradition was born.

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NIS 100 Leon Wolf, New York, NY. NIS 100 Steven Caranyan, Northridge, CA. Brona Barzowa, Los Angeles, CA. NIS 30 Ruth Brandt Spitzer, Beverly Hills, CA. NIS 24 in memory of my beloved father, Jacob Spector - Louise Leibman, Merion Station, PA.

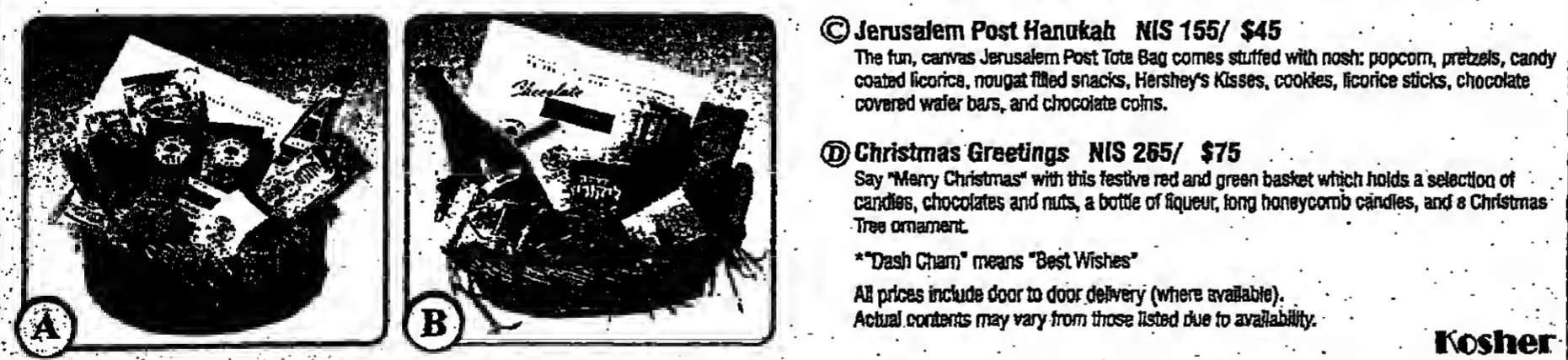
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AFFAIR

Continued from Page 1

Mordechai was praised by officials for not mobilizing the reserves, choosing instead to use American channels to assure Syria that Israel was not preparing any military action.

The senior official contended that the false data "was not of substantial value" and that there was no difference between it and "the diverse information which poured into the system."

Mordechai, touring the Erez checkpoint yesterday, said that while the false information was a system failure, no significant damage was caused.

Uri Saguy, a former OC Intelligence, said the data in question "was not decisive."

He told Israel Radio that the information received from what turned out to be a totally unreliable channel "sometimes was in great, even total contradiction to other intelligence, which was more reliable, more stable."

"There were those who developed a thesis and then looked for data to support it," he added.
Liat Collins adds:
The Knesset subcommittee that monitors the secret services is expected to discuss the affair next week.

Nissim Zvilli (Labor), a member of the subcommittee, which operates jointly under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs and Defense and State Control committees, is calling for an examination of possible political motives behind the affair - such as whether political elements who were interested in a deterioration of the relationship with Syria were behind the false intelligence.

Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and its own subcommittee on secret services, said that he had received a report on the affair. He said the security establishment's assessments had not been altered by the false information and noted that in any case, intelligence assessments are never based on just one

Hill's triple double leads Pistons to 3OT win

AUBURN HILLS (AP) - Grant Hill had 27 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double of the season as the Detroit Pistons outlasted the Phoenix Suns 108-103 in triple overtime Wednesday night.

It was the second triple-overtime game of the season for the Suns, who beat Portland 140-139 in quadruple overtime November 14.

Bulls 97, Celtics 87
Michael Jordan scored 29 points and Dennis Rodman had 17 rebounds as visiting Chicago avenged an opening-night loss.

Antoine Walker had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Celtics, who lost their fourth consecutive game.

Heat 94, 76ers 90
Isaac Austin scored 28 points and Eric Murdock had 11 of his 17 to the fourth quarter to lead Miami to a home win.

Tim Hardaway added 20 points and 11 assists for Miami. The Sixers, losers of four of their last five games, were led by Alieu Iverson's 21 points. Clarence Weatherpoon chipped in 14 points and 13 rebounds.

SuperSonics 93, Nets 89
Vin Baker scored 23 points and Hersey Hawkins made four late

free throws and grabbed a key rebound to lead visiting Seattle.

Detlef Schrempf finished with 17 for Seattle while Gary Payton and Dale Ellis each scored 16.

Sam Cassell led the Nets with 23 while Kendall Gill added 18.

Pacers 94, Timberwolves 90
Reggie Miller scored 27 points

Dallas sacks Clemons
DALLAS (AP) - Jim Clemons became the first NBA coach to lose his job this season, getting sacked as coach of the Dallas Mavericks yesterday after the team lost 12 of their last 13 games.

General manager Don Nelson, the sixth-winningest coach in league history, will take over tomorrow.

to lead visiting Indiana, and an offensive goaltending call east Minnesota two crucial points in the final minute.

It was Indiana's fourth straight victory and seventh in the last eight games. Minnesota has lost five of its last six at home and six of seven overall.

Lakers 107, Nuggets 89
Elden Campbell, filling the

middle for the injured Shaquille O'Neal, had 25 points and 12 rebounds, night to help Los Angeles to a road win.

Nick Van Exel had 19 points to lead five other Lakers in double figures as Los Angeles handed the Nuggets their 14th loss in 15 games.

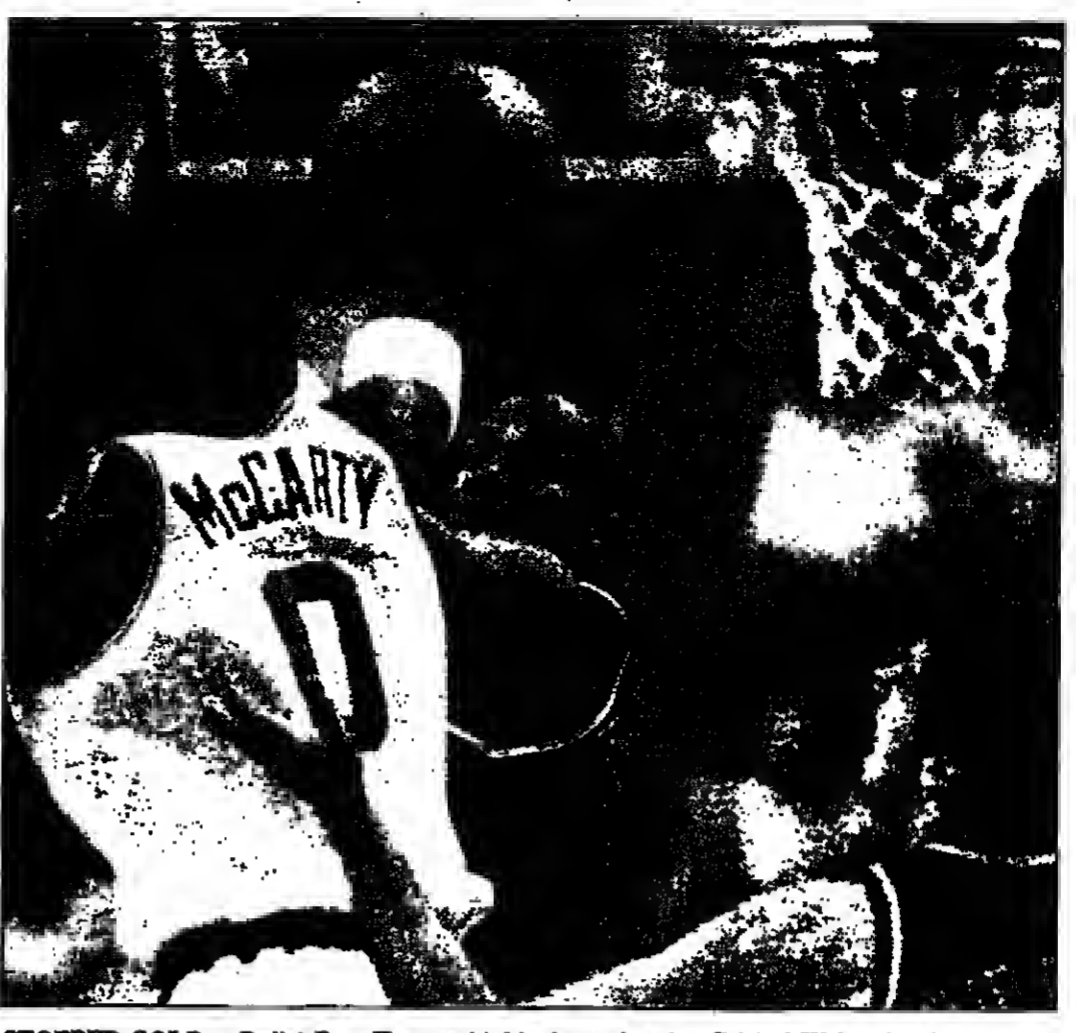
Jazz 115, Raptors 98
Karl Malone had 23 points and 15 rebounds and Bryon Russell added a season-high 19 points as host Utah won its sixth straight game and handed Toronto its 14th consecutive loss.

Damon Stoudamire led Toronto with 25 points, Doug Christie added 17 points, and John Wallace and Shawn Respert had 16 each.

Magic 115, Grizzlies 97
Penny Hardaway, the leader in a player revolt against coach Brian Hill last season, scored 22 points as visiting Orlando edged Hill's new team.

Derek Stroug had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Orlando in the Magic's first game against their former coach.

Cavaliers 95, Warriors 67
Clearly missing the scoring of Latrell Sprewell, host Golden State lost its first game without their former star.



STOPPED COLD - Bulls' Ron Harper (c) blocks a shot by Celtics' Walter McCarty. Toni Kukoc (r) retrieves the loose ball. Chicago won 97-87.

Bloomfield to feel the heat

By DEKRA FATTAL

The strike might have affected local meteorologists, but no one needs a weather expert to pick out this weekend's hotspots in soccer's National League.

The mercury is set to edge up the scale at South Tel Aviv's Bloomfield Stadium tomorrow afternoon for a doubleheader program that pits Bnei Yehuda against second-placed Beitar Jerusalem, followed by a meeting between league leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv and bottom-placed Hapoel Beersheba.

Further north, the big derby clash in Haifa between Maccabi and Hapoel should set both pulses and the atmosphere racing on the Carmel. With 12 matches played, the Jerusalemites have inched to within one point of Hapoel Tel Aviv. Nevertheless the mood in the Tel Aviv camp is still buoyant and the odds are that Hapoel Beersheba's newly installed coach Elyahu Ofer - is likely to stem the rot against the league's current top guns.

Beersheba's new owners have a crisis on their hands and their loss of nerve in firing Bulgarian coach Gregori Tzvetkov within a week of appointing him smacks of sheer panic.

If the southerners can hold Hapoel Tel Aviv to a draw, then champions, Beitar could seize the top spot. The Jerusalemites have their own problems with a squad severely depleted through injury and suspension. With Reuven Abar sidelined to the treatment room coach Dror Kashtan swung into action this week to snatch Shai Holtzman from French club Rennes in order to boost his squad's playing resources.

Holtzman could prove to be an excellent buy for Beitar as the campaign progresses but lacks match fitness at present.

Maccabi Haifa will be aiming to banish the memory of the 1-0 defeat inflicted on them in round 12 by Beitar with a victory over their neighbors Hapoel Haifa. Kiryat Eliezer is set to be full to the brim. With both sides breathing hard on the necks of the leaders neither can afford a slip up in what should be an intense clash.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Today: Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, 19.00; Beitar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Beersheba, 19.00; Hapoel Ashdod v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Ashdod, 19.00; Tomorrow: Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Beersheba, Bloomfield Stadium, 16.15; Maccabi Haifa v. Hapoel Haifa, Kiryat Eliezer, 17.15; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Herzliya, 16.30; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Ironi Ashdod, Petah Tikva, 14.30; Hapoel Be'er Sheva v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, 14.30.

NBA suspends Sprewell for 1 year

OAKLAND (AP) - Golden State Warriors forward Latrell Sprewell was suspended for a year without pay by the NBA yesterday for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo.

The move came less than a day after the Golden State Warriors terminated Sprewell's \$32 million contract for assaulting his coach at practice and threatening to kill him.

"A sports league does not have to accept or condone behavior that would not be tolerated in any other segment of society," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Accordingly, Latrell Sprewell is suspended from the NBA for one year."

The suspension takes effect immediately and will end on December 3, 1998. Sprewell was already serving a 10-game suspension without pay imposed by the league.

It was the first time an NBA player had his contract terminated for insubordination. Two players, Roy Tarpley and Richard Dumas, had their contracts voided because they violated the league's drug policy.

"Outrageous misconduct by players in professional sports has been tolerated for too long," general manager Gary St. Jean said. "We are drawing the line. Some things are more important than winning or losing games."

Bill Hunter, director of the players union, said a grievance would be filed.

Sprewell, who said that he was prepared to play outside the NBA, admitted making a mistake, but did not apologize to Carlesimo. He said that his attack on the coach was provoked "after a lot of verbal abuse" by P.J.

The team said it reserved the right to terminate his contract under Section 16 of the Uniform Player Contract, which says players must "conform to standards of good citizenship and good moral character, and prohibits engaging in acts of insubordination."

Some NBA players have a personal contract clause in their contracts that prohibits teams from terminating them based on their behavior. Sprewell had such a clause in his contract.

Bruins' goalie grounds Flyers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Top pick Joe Thornton scored his first NHL goal and point in the third period as the struggling Boston Bruins defeated the Philadelphia Flyers, 3-0 on Wednesday night.

Boston goaltender Bryon Dufoe, who was 1-5-2 in his previous eight starts, gained his fourth career shutout by stopping 20 shots.

Canadiens 2, Kings 0
Vincent Damphousse ended Montreal's five-period scoring drought with a second-period, power-play goal as Montreal won at home.

Lightning 2, Coyotes 1
Paul Ysebaert and Dino Ciccarelli scored second-period goals, 34 seconds apart, to lead Tampa Bay to a home win.

Hurricanes 5, Islanders 3
Kevin Dineen returned from a six-game absence for a hamstring injury and helped fuel a three-goal first period that sent Carolina to a home win.

Sabres 4, Mighty Ducks 0
Dominik Hasek turned back 29 shots and Miroslav Satan scored two goals to lead Buffalo to a home win.

Buffalo broke a four-game winless streak thanks to the stellar play of Hasek, who posted his second shutout of the season. Donald Audette and Brian Holzinger added power-play goals for the Sabres.

Stars 4, Oilers 1
Host Dallas overcame the loss of NHL scoring leader Mike Modano in the first period.

Modano was hit on the right knee by the knee of Oilers defenseman Bryan Marchington on a hard check along the boards with 13:02 left in the first. Modano crumpled to the ice and was

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	15	9	5	35	80
New Jersey	17	9	0	24	74
Washington	14	10	4	32	83
N.Y. Islanders	11	13	4	26	75
N.Y. Rangers	8	2	9	25	73
Florida	8	14	5	21	63
Tampa Bay	5	17	4	14	52
Northwest Division					
Montreal	16	3	3	35	68
San Jose	15	9	5	35	82
St. Louis	12	12	5	29	78
Calgary	12	13	4	28	80
Ottawa	11	13	4	26	72
Niagara	8	12	3	22	68
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Central Division					
Dallas	19	7	4	42	99
Edmonton	18	6	5	41	97
St. Louis	16	9	3	35	81
Phoenix	13	12	2	28	77
Chicago	10	13	4	24	59
Toronto	8	13	4	20	50
Pacific Division					
Colorado	14	6	0	36	84
Los Angeles	12	10	5	29	75
Anaheim	11	10	6	28	80
Vancouver	9	14	4	22	77
San Jose	9	15	2	27	73
Calgary	6	16	7	19	71

NBA					
EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Miami	11	5	.688	-	
Orlando	10	6	.647	-	
New York	10	6	.625	1	
New Jersey	10	7	.588	1.5	
Boston	7	10	.412	4.5	
Washington	6	11	.353	5.5	
Philadelphia	4	10	.284	6	
Central Division					
Atlanta	15	2	.882	-	
Charlotte	10	5	.692	1	
Cleveland	9	6	.600	5	
Chicago	10	7	.588	5	
Indiana	9	7	.563	5.5	
Detroit	7	11	.389	8.5	
Toronto	1	16	.059	14	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Midwest Division					
Utah	11	6	.647	-	
San Antonio	9	5	.643	1	
San Houston	7	9	.438	3	
Memphis	7	12	.368	5	
Dallas	4	12	.250	6.5	
Denver	1	14	.067	9	
Pacific Division					
L.A. Lakers	14	2	.875	-	
Portland	14	4	.778	1	
Phoenix	10	4	.714	3	
Portland	10	6	.625	4	
Sacramento	5	12	.294	9.5	
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.125	12	
Golden State	1	14	.067	12.5	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
Quarterbacks					
Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
S. Young, S.E.	285	172	2386	16	6
C. Anderson, S.E.	277	167	2191	16	6
F. Ryan, S.E.	428	249	3175	28	14
D. Taylor, S.E.	334	199	2356	20	9
J. Johnson, N.E.	432	275	3034	20	11
M. Ryan, N.E.	423	244	2745	16	9
P. Flaherty, N.E.	414	235	2819	15	12
T. Dwyer, N.E.	412	242	2814	9	8
D. Deshaies, N.E.	244	154	1567	7	12
F. Freeman, N.E.	402	240	2682	17	12

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
Quarterbacks					
Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
E. Manning, A.	393	230	2964	21	7
G. Oakes, A.	435	237	3297	25	9
B. Brunell, A.	434	249	2470	14	6
M. Ryan, A.	425	197	3088	23	12
O. Brown, A.	371	230	2531	15	4
G. Garcia, A.	308	174	1972	11	8
H. Ryan, A.	494	285	3204	20	15
H. Ryan, A.	450	248	2123	9	4
H. Ryan, A.	232	139	1465	5	4
B. Ryan, A.	317	184	2125	8	7

Greek police to stage protest

ATHENS (AP) - Tired of providing free security at often violent soccer games, police yesterday said they will hold a protest during next week's European Champions League game between Olympiakos Piraeus and Rosenborg.

It will be the first ever such action staged by the 40,000-strong police force and indicative of the growing public backlash against escalating fan violence at soccer games.

Police unions issued their action just days after riot squads clashed with fans who damaged the venue for the 2004 Olympics during a game Monday between Olympiakos and Panathinaikos.

WINNING CARDS

Card	Value	Card	Value
A	1	9	9
2	2	10	10
3	3	11	11
4	4	12	12
5	5	13	13
6	6	14	14
7	7	15	15
8	8	16	16
9	9	17	17
10	10	18	18
11	11	19	19
12	12	20	20
13	13	21	21
14	14	22	22
15	15	23	23
16	16	24	24
17	17	25	25
18	18	26	26
19	19	27	27
20	20	28	28
21	21	29	29
22	22	30	30
23	23	31	31
24	24	32	32
25	25	33	33
26	26	34	34
27	27	35	35
28	28	36	36
29	29	37	37
30	30	38	38
31	31	39	39
32	32	40	40
33	33	41	41
34	34	42	42
35	35	43	43
36	36	44	44
37	37	45	45
38	38	46	46
39	39	47	47
40	40	48	48
41	41	49	49
42	42	50	50
43	43	51	51
44	44	52	52
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46	46	54	54
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79	79	87	87
80	80	88	88
81	81	89	89
82	82	90	90
83	83	91	91
84	84	92	92
85	85	93	93
86	86	94	94
87	87	95	95
88	88	96	96
89	89	97	97
90	90	98	98
91	91	99	99
92	92	100	100

The weather forecast was unavailing due to the Hstadrut strike

The weather forecast was unavailing due to the Hstadrut strike.

Touchdowns

Player	TD	Player	TD
John Elway	15	Tom Brady	1
Drew Brees	13	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	11	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	9	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	7	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	5	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	3	Tom Brady	0
Tom Brady	1	Tom Brady	0

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Hartson leads pack, praises Berkovic

LONDON (AP) - Arsenal surely wish they hadn't sold John Hartson.

The red-headed West Ham striker, who came over from Arsenal 10 months ago for a paltry £3.2 million, leads the Premier League with 17 goals in only 20 matches. Since coming over from Arsenal he has 22 goals in 31 games.

Arsenal basically bet on their striker Ian Wright instead of Hartson. It might have been a bad bet and rumors already abound that major European teams like Juventus are trying to buy him.

Wright is struggling for goals, with much of the scoring responsibility falling on the shoulders of Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, who has 12, third in the league. Andy Cole of Manchester United is second with 13.

With West Ham, Hartson has teamed up front with Israeli striker Eyal Berkovic. And he gives Berkovic much of the credit.

"Berkovic is great on the ball and looks to put you in with every pass," said the Welshman. "He's been brilliant this season, and I'm very grateful for the chances I'm getting."

Manchester United lead the Premier League with 34 points in 16 followed by Chelsea (31), Blackburn (30) and Leeds (29).

The biggest games this weekend are Manchester United at Liverpool and Arsenal at Newcastle. In an intense London derby, Tottenham with new manager Christian Gross are home to Chelsea. On Sunday, Southampton are at Wimbledon.

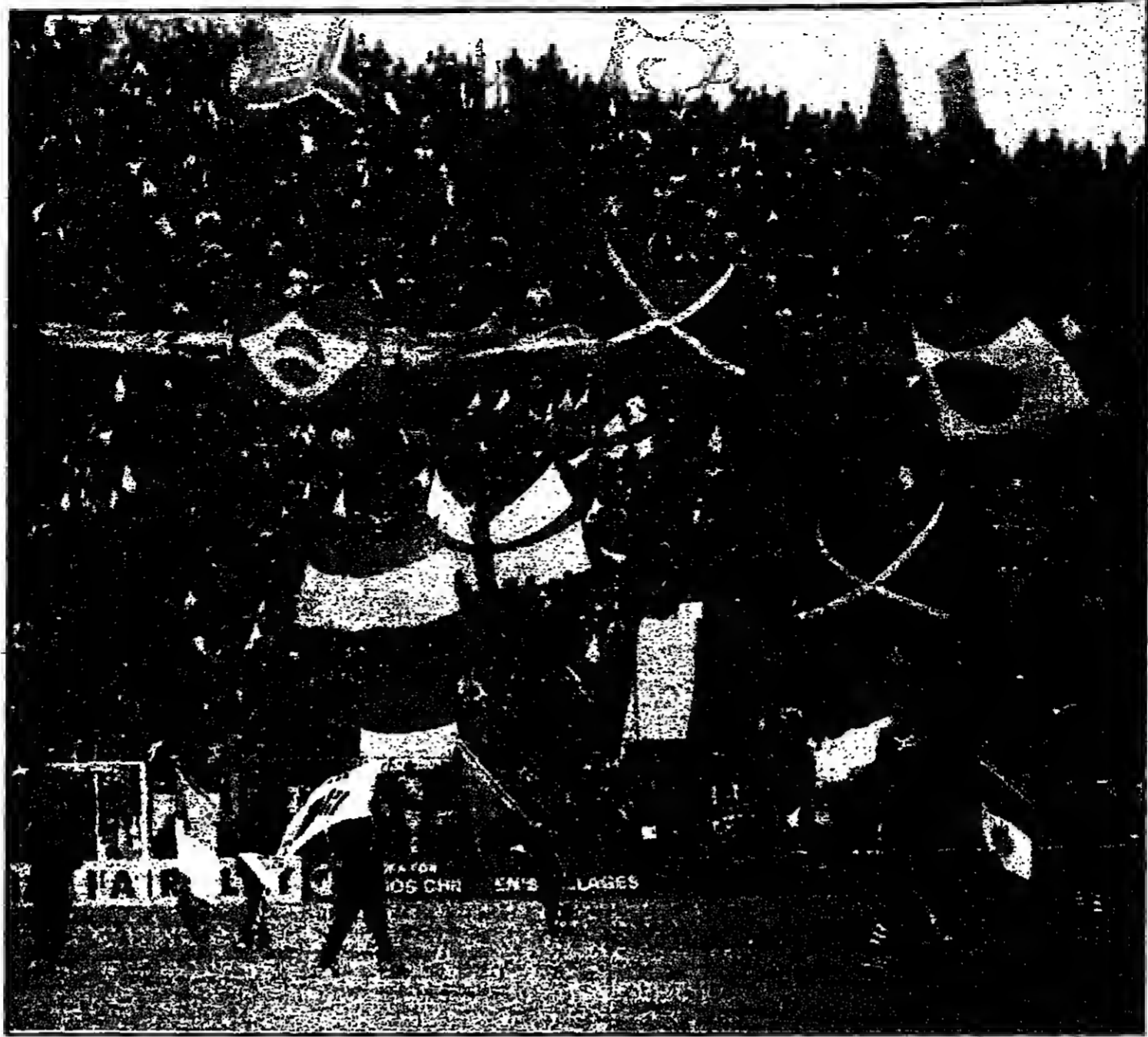
In other games tomorrow: Aston Villa vs. Coventry, Blackburn vs. Bolton, Derby vs. West Ham, Leeds vs. Everton and Leicester vs. Crystal Palace.

Also, 36 teams play second-round games tomorrow in the FA Cup with mostly third-division and semi-pro teams playing off.

In Scotland, leaders Hearts are home to Motherwell with No. 2 Rangers playing Sunday at home against Hibernian.

US drawn with Iran in World Cup

Germany, Yugoslavia round out Group F



WORLD CUP FEVER - Supporters wave flags before the match between Europe and the Rest of the World which preceded the draw for the World Cup in Marseille yesterday.

MARSEILLE (AP) - Four-time champions Brazil will start the defense of the World Cup against Scotland, which have never been past the first round in seven tries.

The Group A June 10 matchup at the new 80,000-capacity Stade de France at Saint-Denis outside Paris was announced at yesterday's draw ceremony.

In other eye-catching games, host France will play debutant South Africa in Marseille June 12 in their first match of the World Cup finals and three-time titlist Germany will start with a game against the United States in Paris June 15.

The draw, conducted for the first time in the open air, threw up four easy groupings, two tough ones and two well-balanced ones. With half the teams going out after the opening round of group matches, nations such as England, 1994 semifinalist Bulgaria and the United States looked in danger of going home early.

England, who had hoped to be seeded and avoid some of the powerhouse teams, were grouped with Romania and Colombia in Group G but at least would be confident of beating Tunisia.

Bulgaria were forced to play Spain, Olympic titlist Nigeria and improving South American nation Paraguay.

The United States face powerhouses Germany, a three-time titlist and European champion, and Yugoslavia, who reached the finals by twice crushing Hungary in the playoffs.

The Americans also must face Iran. The two nations have been at diplomatic loggerheads since radical Iranians seized the US Embassy in Tehran 18 years ago.

Iran were the last team to qualify for the 32-nation finals, beating Australia in the final playoff game on Saturday.

Netherlands and Belgium, who played each other in the qualifying round, open against each other June 13 in Saint-Denis in Group E.

Brazil and Italy, who played out the last final in 1994, look well placed to make it to the last 16.

After playing Scotland, the Brazilians face Morocco and Norway, and will be confident of gaining one of the two qualifying

places. The Italians, who squeezed into the finals after a playoff against Russia, face Chile in their opening game June 11 in Bordeaux. They then go on to meet Cameroon June 17 at Montpellier and Austria June 23 in Stade de France.

Although Cameroon have made it for the third time in a row, it looks nowhere near as strong as when it made the quarterfinal in 1990.

The French also look favored to reach the second round, especially on home territory.

After meeting the South Africans, they face Saudi Arabia June 18 at Stade de France and finally under-achiever Denmark June 24 in Lyon.

Argentina, a two-time winner, play against three debutants but one of them, Croatia, are an impressive newcomer with some big stars.

The South Americans, who won in 1978 and 1986, start against Japan June 14 at Toulouse, then meet Jamaica June 21 at Parc des Princes in Paris, and then have their only tough game, against the Croats, June 26 in Bordeaux.

"This is the highest quality group. The English group is also complicated but I believe that our group is the most difficult," said Spanish coach Javier Clemente.

"I always said we would have to watch out for the Africans, and it turns out that we have to play Nigeria, the best of them, and we

have to play them at 2 p.m. which is the hottest time of the day.

England manager Glenn Hoddle said, "All in all, we're not displeased with the three teams we got. Romania have got a good pedigree and have done well in the last two World Cups and have a group of players who have been together a long time," Hoddle said. "In some way they are more experienced than we are."

"Colombia are a team that can be really skillful but on another day you might just catch them."

Craig Brown, Scotland manager, faced the challenge of playing the defending champions in the opener. "They couldn't come any tougher than Brazil in the opening game. We played Brazil in three

previous World Cups and lost each time so we have a chance to redeem ourselves. But it will be very difficult in the opening match."

Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said he was amazed his team had to play Belgium again. They also met in the last finals in the US where the Belgians won 1-0 in the first round.

"It's curious. As I flew to Marseille from Brussels I thought it could just happen that we meet each other. After what happened in America we must be careful."

South African defender Sizwe Mofane was upbeat about his team's draw. "We are happy and I can assure you we will make South Africa proud," he said.

All Star game warms up the crowd

MARSEILLE (AP) - The Rest of the World, with Ronaldo and Gabriel Batistuta dazzling the crowd, jogged and joked to a 5-2 win over Europe in an exhibition match ahead of yesterday's World Cup draw.

Marius Lăcătus of Romania opened the score in the second minute, punishing an awful clearance from Morocco's Noureddine Naybet with an angled drive that gave Jacques Song'o of Cameroon no chance.

After that the Rest of the World took over with five strikes. Ronaldo's pass beat the offside trap in the 16th minute, allowing Colombia's Antony De Avila to sneak through and grab the equalizer.

Ronaldo scored himself six minutes later, faking his way past Spain's Fernando Hierro and beating German goalkeeper Andreas Koepke with a low shot.

The Brazilian captain passed to the unmarked Batistuta in the 30th minute, and the Argentine star unleashed his lethal right foot to put some more distance between the teams.

An identical combination seven minutes later added a fourth goal.

Ronaldo used his speed on a deep ball in the 43rd minute and beat out Koepke outside the area before tapping it into the empty net, raising another loud cheer from the 38,000 crowd at the Stade Velodrome.

Group A	Brazil, Scotland, Norway, Cameroon
Group B	France, South Africa, Denmark, Nigeria
Group C	Germany, Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, United States
Group D	Spain, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco
Group E	Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Portugal
Group F	Italy, Argentina, Croatia, Australia
Group G	England, Romania, Colombia, Tunisia
Group H	France, South Africa, Denmark, Nigeria
Group I	Germany, Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, United States
Group J	Spain, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco
Group K	Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Portugal
Group L	Italy, Argentina, Croatia, Australia

Phillips gets second chance with Dolphins

DAVIE, Florida (AP) - Lawrence Phillips stood with his back to the wall, eager to put the past behind him.

"I'm not here to get into all that," he said. "I'm here to play football."

And so he did, taking the field Wednesday for the first time since being released last month by the St. Louis Rams. The talented but troubled running back has a new team - the Miami Dolphins - and a fresh start.

Phillips reported for practice one day after signing a contract

through 1998 that will pay him \$29,000 for the rest of this season. With incentives, he could make \$1 million next year.

Coach Jimmy Johnson said Phillips might play as a reserve Sunday night against the Detroit Lions. Teammates applauded the acquisition.

"Everybody has things in their past they're not proud of," center Tim Ruddy said. "I want to win games. Whoever gives us the best chance of doing that, that's who I want."

The sixth player taken in the

1996 draft, Phillips was a bust with the St. Louis Rams. In 19 months he was arrested three times and spent 23 days in jail (for attacking his ex-girlfriend) before being cut by the Rams for disciplinary reasons.

The Dolphins wanted the 22-year-old Phillips because their ground game ranks next-to-last in the NFL, even though they're tied for first place in the AFC East.

The contract included no special provisions for monitoring him or requiring him to enroll in any programs, said his agent, Steve Feldman.

Phillips received treatment for alcohol abuse while in St. Louis, but the Dolphins said they wouldn't require him to continue the program.

Alvarez signs with Devil Rays

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) - Tampa Bay Devil Rays general manager Chuck LaMar made Wilson Alvarez one of the highest-paid pitchers in baseball on Wednesday.

Alvarez, 33-11 with a 3.48 ERA with the Chicago White Sox and San Francisco Giants last season, agreed to a \$35 million, five-year deal that matches Florida's Alex Fernandez for the fifth-highest average salary among pitchers at \$7m.

The move also reunites him with reliever Roberto Hernandez, who signed a \$22.5m deal with Tampa Bay on the night of the expansion draft. The two began last season with the White Sox and helped the Giants win the NL West after being traded to San Francisco on July 31.

Among pitchers, Alvarez's average salary trails only Greg Maddux (\$11.5m), Tom Glavine (\$8.5m), Roger Clemens (\$8.25m) and John Smoltz (\$7.75m).

Chicago hire Manuel as manager

The Chicago White Sox hired Florida Marlins bench coach Jerry Manuel as manager yesterday, replacing Terry Bevington, who was fired after a disappointing season.

Manuel never has managed at the major league level. He managed AAA Indianapolis in 1991 and AA Jacksonville in 1990.

Manuel, 43, spent portions of five seasons in the majors, compiling a .150 batting average in 127 at-bats with Detroit, Montreal and San Diego.

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